

Volume 9, No. 2 • December 14, 2001

Nation

ᐱ ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ ᐱ ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ
Merry Christmas

New Chief in Chisasibi

Whapmagoustui Fire

\$2 Free in Iyiyuuschii

Serving Iyiyuuschii since 1993

Many Thanks and Best Wishes
to all our
Readers, Customers & Friends
who have Supported
Beesum & the Nation.

Have a
Great Holiday Season!





THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST

I always enjoyed The Christmas Carol. The story of a cruel arrogant old miser changing for the better touches something in all of us. It is the hope that people with this type of ingrained behaviour can change for the better, but this story is just fiction. In real life this is a rare occurrence that we all never count on or expect.

For Native Peoples in Canada our Scrooge has always been the continuing actions, practices and policies of colonization. It is the fundamental core of a government that cannot and will not accept that past behavioural tendencies were wrong and thus is committed to the continuation of them.

Prime Minister Jean Cretien in 1969, as the Minister of Indian Affairs, attempted to overhaul the Indian Act through the infamous "White Paper" but was met with such an outcry by Natives and the general population that this approach was abandoned. It was an attempt to end Federal responsibility for First Nations and end "Indian" status within Canada.

It wasn't even a new idea back then. In 1946-48 a joint House and Senate committee held hearings to consider changing Indian Act. Native leaders came out against it decrying the arbitrary stripping of Indian status, poor education, health and living standards of reserves. Those hearings, though, revealed that 8,000 native children had no access to schooling.

In 1951 a new and improved Indian Act was introduced. There weren't many changes.

Now it's 2001 and Minister Nault of Indian Affairs has decided that he will go ahead with his Governance Act even though Native leaders are overwhelmingly against it. The vote was 146-26 to reject. Nault's reply was predictable

saying he would go ahead with or without the AFN. It is amazing that an elected official can so readily and easily dismiss the desires of other elected officials.

This, of course, was also done on a regular basis in the past. We used to have Indian Agents who would regulate every aspect of the First Nations lives. It was discriminatory in that one people were deciding the future of another without regard for their ways or wishes. It was something that we had thought was to be a part of the past. Other countries such as Australia, have come out as condemning these types of colonial practices, but Canada continues to hold on to them and is supporting them wholeheartedly it seems.

One can sympathize with Quebec when they talk about the arrogance of English Canada and what they did to the French, if this is any indication of Canada's mentality.

In his actions Nault has proved to one and all that the Indian Agent is alive and well. He also proved that the genocidal (one people changing or absorbing another people against their will) practices continue to be a part of the Canadian political will. And lastly he has proved that Canada is still racist in it's attitudes towards Native Peoples as he is in effect stating that First Nation's leaders are not his equals in any way and consideration for the wishes of First Nations do not enter into Canadian political realities. It is a paternalistic leftover of colonization and a rather poor Christmas present for a people whose living, social and economic conditions do not even come close to the Canadian norm.

But still as Tiny Tim said "God bless us everyone."

We're going to need it.

Will Nicholls

CONTENTS

NEWS

- 5 Ouje-Bougoumou
New Chief for Chisasibi
- 7 Fire in Whapmagoostui
Briefs

FEATURE

- 10 Old Woman & Grandson
ᐱᓄᓐᓂᓐᓂᓐ ᐱᓄᓐ
ᐱᓄᓐᓂᓐᓂᓐ ᐱᓄᓐ

- 13 Creeactions:
letters from
you on the
Agreement-in-principle

- 19 Will on the Grill

- 23 Rampage

- 29 Jewel of the North

ON THE COVER

Eeyou Istchee

Photographer: Neil Diamond

Cover Design: Richard Lawson

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS MY A.I.P...

Sometimes I come up short for ideas and I call the great Will Nicholls for advice and he usually gives me some sort of theme to deal with. If he isn't in a good mood, he'll call me and ask "Where's my Rez notes? I keep reminding you to send it in early so we can prepare everything, send it by e-mail, we prefer it that way, so we don't have to type everything in at the last moment."

"Sure, sure....it's almost done. Don't worry, be cool." I reassure him. In reality there's still two hours left before deadline, plenty of time.

Later on the phone rings and it's Will again and this time I can tell he's just on the fringe of beating someone with the phone handset. "The Notes were supposed to be here an hour ago. What's happening man...don't do this to me." I reassure him and I rush home, thinking in concise format exactly what to write and while busily firing up my computer, I run it through my mind. The word processor takes forever to load and I still have twenty-five minutes. No problemo.

After my keyboard has cooled down and everything printed out, I rush out to find the nearest fax machine. E-mail? Never heard of it.

"Hurry, I only have five minutes!" I pressured the harried receptionist as she punches in the fax number. "This is important stuff and it has to go. If it doesn't make it in time the entire literary world will crumble."

Two weeks later, I do the same thing over again. After all, it's not like doing the same thing everyday. A full hour of work per month, no sweat, except perhaps for poor Will. Thank God he's 1800 kilometres away and he can't get at me for revenge. This issue, he asked me to write about Christmas and somehow combine the Agreement in Principle, so I composed an ode to the A.I.P. hummed to the tune of "All I Want for Christmas is My Two Front Teeth" as performed by Alvin the Chipmunk. So, everyone, join

in and sing this new Christmas carol.
 All I want for Christmas is my A.I.P., my A.I.P., oh my A.I.P.,
 All I want for Christmas is my A.I.P., so I can wish you a Merry Christmas...
 All I need for Christmas is a referendum, a referendum, oh a referendum
 All I need for Christmas is a referendum, so I can collect a 3 point fiver...
 All we need for Christmas is five thousand houses, five thousand houses, oh five thousand houses,
 All we need for Christmas is five thousand houses, so we can live happily ever after.
 All Hydro needs to do is change their language policy, change their language policy
 Oh? Change their language policy,
 All Hydro needs to do is change their language policy, Oh? So we can work in our own back yard.
 All we have to do is plan for our own future, our own future, oh our own future...
 All we have to do is plan for our own future, so we can all retire comfortably,
 All we have to do is leave it to our children, leave it to our children, oh, leave it to our children,
 All we have to do is leave it to our children, oh... so they can have a future too...
 MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!

How To Tell You've
 Been Really Bad.



The Nation
 is published every two weeks
 by Beesum Communications

EDITORIAL BOARD
 N. Diamond, W. Nicholls, B. Zelnicker

EDITOR IN CHIEF
 Will Nicholls

IYYUU AYIMUUN EDITOR
 Brian Webb

PHOTOGRAPHY
 Neil Diamond

GRAPHIC DESIGNER
 Richard Lawson

DIRECTOR OF FINANCES
 Linda Ludwick

SALES REPRESENTATIVE - MONTREAL
 Aaron MacDevitt

LAYOUT & PRODUCTION
 W. Nicholls, N. Diamond

AD LAYOUT
 Aaron MacDevitt

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS
 Jennifer Westlake
 Danielle Valade

THANKS TO: Air Creebec,

WHERE TO REACH US:

POSTMASTER:
 5505 ST-LAURENT, #3018
 MONTREAL, QC, H2T 1S6

PLEASE ADDRESS CORRESPONDENCE TO:
THE NATION PRODUCTION OFFICE
 5678 PARC AVE.
 P.O. Box 48036
 MONTREAL, CANADA H2V 4S8

EDITORIAL
 TEL.: 514-272-3077, FAX: 514-278-9914

THE NATION HEAD OFFICE
 P.O. Box 151, CHISASIBI, QC. J0M 1E0

E-MAIL ADDRESS:
 Editorial
 nation@beesum.ca
 Ads & Classifieds
 beesum@beesum-communications.com
 On the Web:
 www.beesum-communications.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS

INDIVIDUALS & INSTITUTIONS: \$45
 ABROAD: INDIVIDUALS: \$70 U.S.
 ABROAD: INSTITUTIONS: \$85 U.S.
 PAYABLE TO BEESUM COMMUNICATIONS

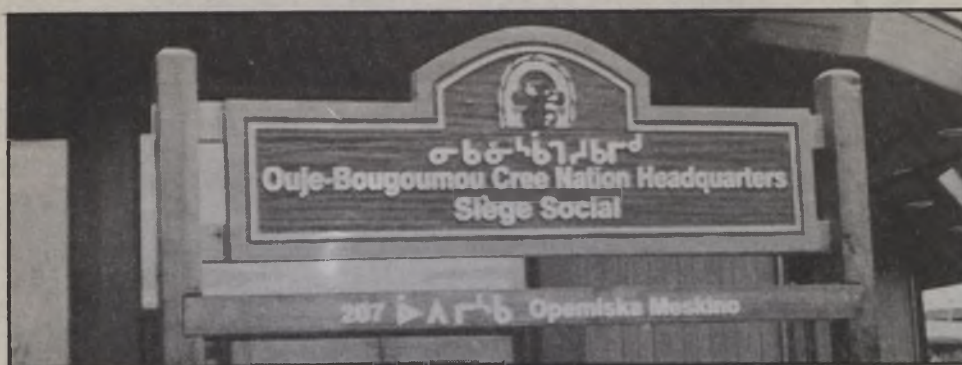
PRINTED BY QUEBECOR ©
 ALL RIGHTS RESERVED
 PUBLICATION MAIL #0584584
 ISSN #1206-2642



THE NATION IS A MEMBER OF:
 THE JAMES BAY CREE COMMUNICATIONS SOCIETY, CIRCLE OF
 ABORIGINAL CONTROLLED PUBLISHERS, CANADIAN MAGAZINE
 PUBLISHERS ASSN.,
 QUEBEC COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER ASSN.,
 CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS' ASSN
 LES HEBDOS SELECT DU QUÉBEC

New Chief in Chisasibi

—by Brian Zelnicker—



CONTAMINATION IN OUJE-BOUGOUMOU:

The Human Dimension

Anxious residents are still waiting to find out what course of action will be taken in the wake of the Covell report on contamination in the Ouje-Bougoumou region. The report, dated October 8, 2001, gave evidence of heavy metal contamination in sediment, water and fish samples collected from the Nemenjiche River, Lac Dore, Lac Chibougamau and Lac Obatogamau. The report also disclosed findings from human head hair analyses that indicated high levels of metals such as chromium, cadmium and arsenic, among others.

The use of head hair samples for testing has been called into question by some in official circles for not being a foolproof method of data accumulation. Indeed, some toxins might be absorbed in the body and not show up in head hair, while other toxins might show high levels in hair but not in the body. According to Dr. Roger Masters, co-researcher of the Covell report, hair samples are "non-invasive, relatively inexpensive and allow testing for a wide range of metals." Masters said that hair can be used effectively as a preliminary screen for toxins since it is economical and easy to collect. Further analysis would also need to be done on blood and urine samples.

"A lot of our people who have gone have died of cancer, but we never knew what caused the cancer," said Chief Sam Bosum of Ouje-Bougoumou, expressing concern over the situation. "Cancer is not the only thing that can be caused by poison," said Dr. Masters, who has spent 30 years studying biology and behaviour. Masters has pointed to a number of behavioural conditions that can arise from exposure to poisons. According to his research, learning disabilities such as Attention Deficit Disorder and hyperactivity can be triggered by multiple toxins. He also suggests that social problems such as drug addiction and violence are connected to contaminants in the environment. In the case of

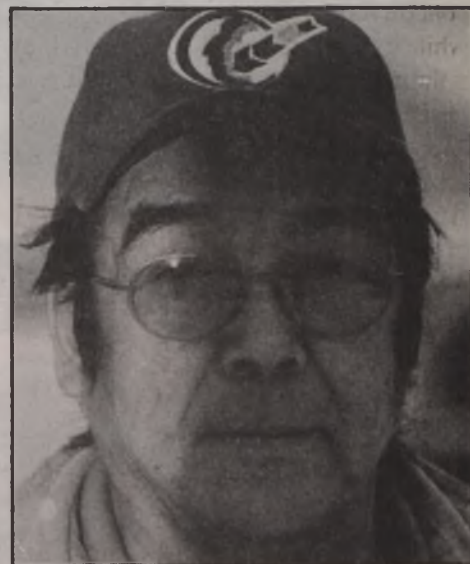
drug addiction, for instance, the effect of the drug taken might be one of a medication counteracting chemicals absorbed into the body, or toxins could be responsible for affecting the system that can lead to addiction. Doctor Masters has no doubt that an irrefutable connection exists between toxins and behavioural conditions, since the brain is "incredibly complex and toxins can affect it in a number of ways."

Dr. Masters has called for immediate testing of all residents of Ouje-Bougoumou and treatment for any individual with serious toxic burden. There are laboratories that have had good success rates in providing treatment, using nutrients, to help the body rid itself of toxins. "The story of the Ouje-Bougoumou cree is just shocking," said Masters. "There is environmental pollution that is killing a large portion of the population and I consider that uncivilized. It is in the self-interest of everyone in Canada that the mining contamination in Ouje-Bougoumou be dealt with," urged Masters.

Meanwhile, Chief Bosum has been informed by Quebec government officials that they would let him know when they will visit the community, but the proposed meeting would probably not take place until after Christmas. "There are some people (in the community) asking about when a meeting will take place. They have told me they don't want any more mines," said the Ouje-Bougoumou Chief. The CRA and the Grand Council have also claimed that the situation is a priority for them. "I know it was on the agenda at our last meeting," said Chief Bosum, "But we didn't get around to it." The failure of the government or the Grand Council to take immediate action on the situation has continued to fuel suspicion that the toxic disaster is taking a backseat to negotiations on the AIP.

The community of Chisasibi has elected a new leader. Abraham Rupert was voted in as Chief in an election held December 3. Rupert won the election with 384 of the 885 total votes that were cast. Former Chief Violet Pachanos came in second with 276 votes, followed by Samson Sandy with 86 votes, Lawrence House with 76 votes and Eddy Pachano with 63 votes.

According to Charlie Pepabano, Chisasibi's Returning Officer, the election marked the first time that any candidates actually went on the campaign trail. "It was the first time the people heard the candidates speak before an election," said Pepabano, who suggested that many votes in the past had been based largely on guesswork and hearsay. The major issues influencing the election were social problems affecting the community, such as housing and alcohol, and the Agreement-in-principle. Candidates made use of the radio to air their particular platforms and positions.



While the majority of eligible voters in Chisasibi (60-70 %) fall into the 18-30 age group, they are the group that least participates in the electoral process. That said, the voter turnout, estimated between 40-50%, was higher than normal. An election for the 12 council positions is to be held on Tuesday, December 11. The council member elected with the highest number of votes will be named deputy Chief, if they choose to accept the appointment.

Brian Zelnicker



Air Creebec

Professional Service
Competitive Rates
Modern Aircrafts



Your travel choice

For reservations, charters or information, call toll-free: 1-800-567-6567
Or visit our website at: www.aircreebec.ca



AFN Chiefs Vote Against Ending Boycott, Call For Nault's Dismissal

The Assembly of First Nations chiefs have nixed a proposed plan to co-operate with Minister of Indian Affairs Robert Nault on revamping the Indian Act. The plan, calling for co-operation between the AFN and Minister Nault to develop the proposed Governance Act, was voted down by a margin of 126-49 at a meeting held in Ottawa December 5th. The rejection of the plan to work together came in spite of National Chief Matthew Coon Come's endorsement.

Coon Come, who had originally come out against the consultation process, encouraged the Chiefs to now participate in order to ensure some Native influence over the proceedings. The chiefs chose to maintain their boycott, seeing the Governance Act as a means to further limit Aboriginal and treaty rights. For his part, Minister Nault has insisted that he'll push ahead with his plans with or without the co-operation of the AFN.

At a meeting held the following day, the AFN chiefs called for Minister Nault's dismissal, stating that he is "brash, confrontational and disrespectful." According to AFN spokesman Jean Larose, the chiefs voted 55-46 to call for Nault's resignation, with ten chiefs abstaining.

Nault was absent from last week's assembly meeting, claiming that he didn't want to be seen to be influencing the debate. The Minister expressed disappointment with the results of the meeting and maintained that, "nonetheless, I'm still interested in working with them." In reference to his ongoing dispute with the AFN Nault added, "you don't have to rely on one organization."

Nault has suggested that the AFN needs restructuring in order to better work with the government since it is difficult to move ahead with initiatives when you rely on input from 633 chiefs. The AFN have accused Nault of using "divide-and-conquer" tactics in an attempt to break their resolve and gain approval for his plans. Nault was also accused of "fiscal intimidation," for withholding or reducing funding to Aboriginal groups who refuse to co-operate.

SUSPICIOUS FIRE AT BADABIN EYYOU SCHOOL

On the quiet morning of Sunday December 2 in Whapmagoostui, the predawn darkness was interrupted by the shrill siren of a warning system designed to go off in extreme heat or cold. At first look, it seemed to be either at the band office or the school. Two hours later, a good citizen reported fire at the Badabin Eeyou School. A team of four firefighters responded to the call and had also called for the backup assistance of their Inuit counterparts, who responded with the same quickness.

Upon arriving at the school, it was not apparent that a fire was burning until the main entrance, where thick black smoke billowed out from the main office complex. In a minute, the fire was extinguished.

At first investigation, questions arose as to the source of the fire, then it became apparent that some sort of foul play had happened. The suspicions of arson arose when it was noted that a very small area had been actually burnt, namely three file cabinets with all the school records of all students attending Badabin, including those from several years back.

Further investigation revealed that vandalism was also at play and some sort of plan had been carried out by the perpetrators, vandals who were seen fleeing the scene of the crime that morning. A window, which was not properly shut, was the entrance way and, as the vandals made their way through the classrooms, they callously damaged some classes and ripped open a condom dispensing machine, hoping to get some change, but to no avail, since there was no money and no condoms to pilfer.

As their insidious crime spree continued, they tampered with the fire extinguishing equipment and broke the glass surrounding the main office while trying to douse the office with water, however, since they didn't have intimate knowledge of this equipment, they decided to set fire instead to the file cabinets containing all student records. Beforehand,

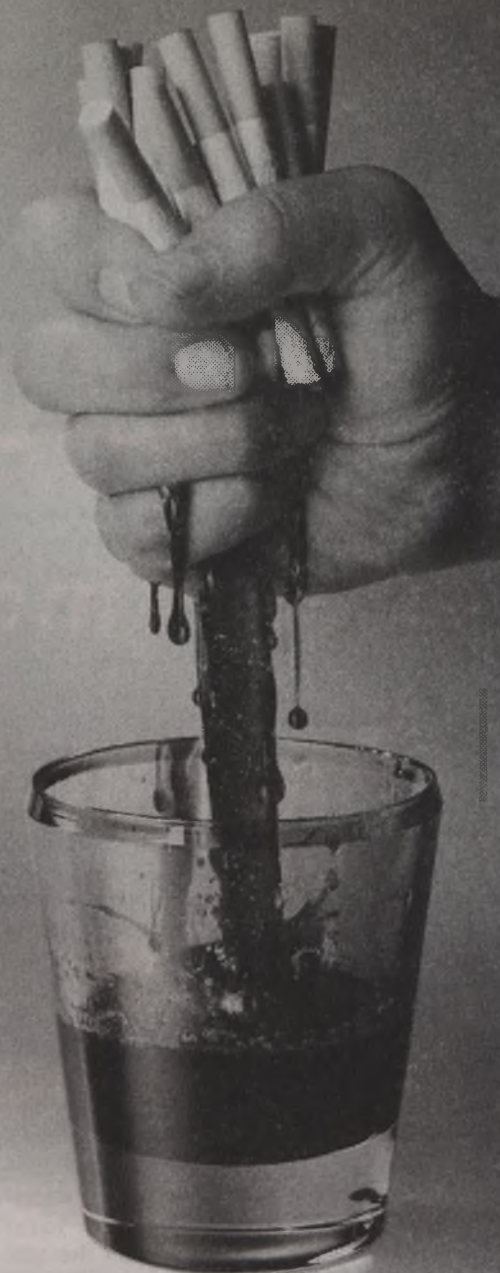
they effectively blocked the main door with a piece of paper, hampering the efforts of the firefighters to gain access to the office, therefore causing them to resort to breaking down the door.

The building had a very good ventilation system which efficiently distributed the acrid smoke to all quarters of the school and rendered the whole building as a potential hazard to human health, resulting in the shutdown of the school for at least a week. Air ventilation experts brought in by the Ministère Education Quebec (MEQ) assessed the immediate damage; the entire ventilation system will have to be cleaned out before the quality of the air is breathable again.

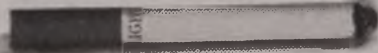
Noted one local school councillor, parents and teachers alike will have to pool their efforts to reconstitute whatever scholastic records of exams and student conduct to enable the school system to function normally again, although this does set back the students by at least a week just before the Christmas holidays. The local councillor also responded that the acts of vandalism do not have a connection to recent student-teacher relations, which have been occupying the efforts of the school and teacher staff, and suspects that the acts were due to pure maliciousness on the part of the perpetrators.

Although no suspects are under custody at the moment, there are suspicions circulating throughout this northernmost Cree community and any information should be forwarded to the local police force. Meanwhile, an investigation is being conducted by MEQ of which the results will be forwarded to the Minister of Justice to aid them and the local police force in capturing the person(s) responsible.

by Sonny Orr



To Your Health



Benzene, formaldehyde, hydrogen cyanide, carbon monoxide, tar. These chemicals and many more are found in the smoke from regular cigarettes AND THOSE LABELLED "LIGHT" AND "MILD" by the Tobacco Industry. It's a deadly brew, no matter how you label it. It's time to see cigarettes for what they really are.

Light and Mild? Deceptive and deadly.



Health
Canada

Santé
Canada

For more information, call: 1 800 O-Canada (1 800 622-6232)
TTY/TDD: 1 800 465-7735 www.healthcanada.ca/tobacco

Canada

THE 7TH ANNUAL STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST IS ON!

**\$2000 in prizes
will be won by
CSB students of
all ages**

Enter your essay on personal experiences, social and political issues, legends, changes in the communities, learning in the bush, Cree as a language of instruction, the future of Eeyou Istchee or any other subject you want to write about (if you're not sure you've got a good topic, give us a call) Essays can be in Cree, English, or French.

Send your entry in by **DECEMBER 14th** to the Nation

by email: nation@beesum.ca by
fax: (514) 278-9914
or Mail: C/O Student Essay Contest
5505 St Laurent, suite 3018
Montreal, Qc., H2T 1S6

*Sponsored by the Nation and the Cree
School Board*

MIYUPIMAATISIITAAU 2002

by Brian Zelnicker

A Traditional Winter Wellness Journey will be wending its way through the communities of Eeyou Istchee this winter. The Cree Diabetes Network (CDN) and the Public Health Department of the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay (CBHSSJB) have announced MIYUPIMAATISIITAAU 2002, a journey on snowshoes that will make its way through all nine Cree communities.

The Wellness Journey is intended to raise awareness and promote prevention of diabetes. The rate of diabetes among the Cree is an alarming 3 to 5 times higher than the Canadian average and is still escalating. Diabetes affects 3 - 5 % of Canadians over the age of 18, but figures for the Cree in Quebec run from 7 - 18.8 % depending on the community.

The journey will begin in Waswanipi and then proceed to Ouje-Bougoumou, Mistissini, Nemaska, Waskaganish, Eastmain, Wemindji, Radisson, Whapmagoostui and finally end up in Chisasibi. The total distance covered by the snowshoers will be about 1400kms. The entire journey will be made on snowshoes, but some dogs may be used to help carry supplies.

The group, led by Freddy Jolly from Nemaska, is hoping for a core of 22 walkers comprising two representatives from each community, two representatives from the Health Board, and two local guides to be alternated at each community. Walkers who only wish to participate in various segments of the journey are also encouraged to get involved.

The anticipated start and finish dates are January 17 - March 22, 2002. The group will be gathering in Waswanipi the week of January 14th to conduct a series of workshops for the walkers. The workshops will cover a range of pertinent subjects including rules and regulations for the journey, survival skills as shared by an elder, information on diabetes and how it particularly affects the Cree, and a session dealing with teamwork. "In the old days our ancestors worked in teams," said organizer Solomon Awashish, who stressed the need for a strong group effort by the walkers in order to successfully complete the long, demanding journey.

Awashish hopes the journey will help foster a greater awareness of diabetes and possible prevention of the disease. He feels that people need to learn more about the symptoms, how to adapt their lifestyles to help reduce the risks of getting diabetes, and need to be encouraged to get tested regularly. Some of the signs to watch for include increased thirst, unexplained weight loss and frequent urination, but these symptoms can sometimes take a long time to show up. "It's a silent disease," Awashish warns, "it's possible to have it for five or ten years without knowing."

Family history and lifestyle can be factors in deciding who becomes affected by diabetes. Awashish encourages people to get tested, especially if diabetes runs in their family, and to learn as much as they can about how diabetes affects the body. A healthier diet and physical activity, especially walking, are considered essential in staving off the disease. "We have to start doing traditional physical activities and eat traditional food to improve our health," said Awashish. The Wellness Journey will practice what it preaches, with the walkers leading by example.



ᠰᠤᠨᠳᠦᠭᠡᠨ ᠶᠢᠨ ᠳᠣᠵᠢᠨ ᠪᠦ ᠬᠡᠭᠴᠢ
The Old Woman and Her Grandson



7. $L^{\infty}(\Gamma) \subset L^{\infty}(\mathbb{D}) \subset L^{\infty}(\mathbb{D})$ and $L^{\infty}(\mathbb{D}) \subset L^{\infty}(\mathbb{D})$

Told by Mary Masty Sr.

[illegible]

I'll tell the legend of the old woman that lived with her grandson. Both of them lived all alone. None of the old woman's children were alive and the boy's parents had passed away. The old woman was also a widow. She was already very old and couldn't do much. The grandson provided food for the both of them. The old woman helped out the best she could. She really felt sorry for her grandson since he was an orphan. Of course, this old woman had the powers of a shaman. Whenever they moved camp, she told her grandson never to watch her build the teepee.

Once in a while, the two moved camp to better hunting areas. The young man led and searched for the new campsite. When the young man reached an area where he decided to camp, he left his toboggan and left to go hunting. When he returned, his grandmother had already set up their teepee. Time went on and he noticed that their teepee looked very much like the one from the previous camp. But it was just a passing thought. He didn't pay any attention to it.

The grandson and the old woman were on the move again. When the young man returned from hunting, his grandmother had already finished building the teepee. He went in. He was almost certain that the teepee was the exact same one from the previous camp. After he ate his supper, he laid down to relax. He looked around at the teepee inside. As he lay there, he quietly scratched one of the teepee poles with his fingernail and left a mark. He thought, "I'll find out what my grandmother does. I'm sure it's the same teepee." He scratched the teepee pole while

[illegible]

The young man was stunned. As soon as the teepee was in plain view, it suddenly dropped to the ground and collapsed. The old woman fell with the teepee. She knew that her grandson had been watching. In the ruins of their teepee, she got up and dusted herself off. "So, grandson, you've been watching me. Now, it will be difficult for me to make the new lodge. So you'll have to do it now. That's why I told you not to watch me because of how frail I am in my old age. We'll be cold now and you'll be the only one to make our teepee now." This is where the legend ends. That was all that I heard told.

*Best wishes
for a happy holiday season
&
may you all have
a very Merry Christmas*



INMET

Posting #165 SENIOR METALLURGIST (Permanent) (Mill)

The Troilus Division is presently searching a SENIOR METALLURGIST (Mill) to join their young and dynamic management team. The Troilus Division is a gold and copper open pit mine with a mill capacity that has been upgraded to 15,000 tpd. The mine site is located at 175 km north of Chibougamau by way of the "Route du Nord". The selected candidate will work on a 4-3 schedule (4 days of work, 3 days off) and will be lodged at the site's first quality camp.

Required qualifications:

To have an Engineering degree (mining, metallurgical or chemical, or other similar field), although a college degree in one of these fields combined with experience, could be recognized. To possess three to five (3-5) pertinent years of experience in metallurgical operations (ore treatment). To have a good knowledge of French and English (spoken and written). To have work experience in a multicultural environment is an asset.

The ideal candidate will preferably have SAG experience and/or relevant instrumentation and process control background.

Main responsibilities:

- To support the operations in the metallurgical out put (tonnage, recoveries, etc.);
- To actively work with the operations to obtain the production and health & safety performance objectives;
- With the help of the operations and training group, to optimize the different units such as the crushing, the grinding and flotation;
- To be in charge of different projects capable of improving operations;
- To produce reports on the follow-up of the operation;
- To give technical support to any environmental problems and to actively work to reduce the health and safety risks;
- To perform any other tasks required by the job.

Particularities and remuneration

Inmet Mining Corporation offers a competitive salary. The position is addressed to men and women. Inmet Mining Corporation encourages the hiring of Crees and hanks all applicants of their interest, but advises that only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

Those interested are to send their Curriculum vitae, no later JANUARY 5, 2002 to:

Human Resources Department
Inmet Mining Corporation
Troilus Division
P.O. Box 8700
Chibougamau (Quebec)
G8P 3A9

fax: (514) 521-8376 / (418) 748-3033

Béric Sport

Welcome • Wachiya • ᐃᑦᑦᑦ

Merry Christmas

ᐃ ᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ ᐃ ᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ

Happy New Year 2002

ᐃ ᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ ᐃ ᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ 2002



Tel.: 1-819-825-5822 • Fax: 1-819-825-9252
50, 3e Avenue • Val d'Or, Qué. J9 1R2



Eastmain Band Council

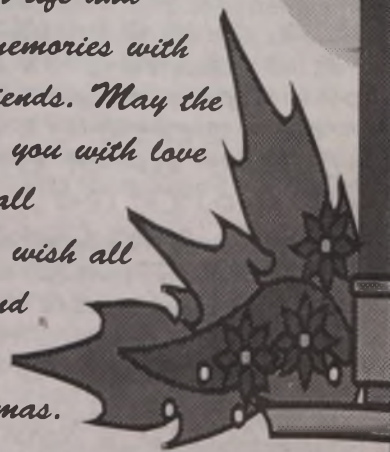
P.O. Box 90 Eastmain,
Quebec J0M 1W0

ph: 819-977-0211

fax: 819-977-0281

*The holiday season is a time
when we give thanks for our
good fortune in life and
share happy memories with
family and friends. May the
creator inspire you with love
and kindness all
year long. We wish all
our brothers and
sisters a very
Merry Christmas.*

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



CREEACTIONS

The letters concerning the AIP are still flooding into the Nation office, so we are still supplying the space to print them. As I have stated in the past, we will allow anonymous letters as long as we at the Nation know who has sent them. Once again we hope that the band offices will allow you to use their fax so that all can participate. Our fax is: 514-278-9914 and you can email us at: nation@beesum.ca

To write to us see the masthead on page four.



To the Nation,

I want to share my views on The Agreement in Principle. Like all Crees I have been thinking long and hard about all that is involved and I have made the following conclusion for myself.

I have heard arguments for and against it and I have taken all this time to make up my mind.

All right, now I see that our leaders have made a choice and it is of their opinion that this is worthwhile for the Crees. We elected these people to look out for our well being and I believe that this is their intention with this agreement.

Our Grand Chief and Chiefs have children too and they will have grandchildren just like us...

So I told myself if this Agreement was bad, they certainly would not leave this legacy for their children. Because, like all Crees, they must love their families, right?

My business is finding employment for Crees and I can tell you that the hardest part of my job is telling them that they cannot have the jobs I have available because they do not have the proper training. There is no reason for this. The Cree School Board spends so much of our money on who knows what? CSB is now training teachers on a wide scale bravo!! It's about time. They should be forced to train our people in careers that are required in the industrial world as well, like welders, mechanics, business management, foremen, electricians, civil engineering and other specialties. Ease up on social workers and so on. In the near future there will be a lack of jobs in these fields and all these people will be fighting for jobs. Come on! Start training programs for all domains!!!

I have heard nonstop talk about future generations and how they would lose their culture because of this. It sounds like we have no faith in our future generations!!! They will be smarter than us and much more educated, that you can be sure of. You see our forefathers signed the JBNQA in good faith, there were parts that were not respected, what did we do?

We fought the government and now they offer more to us. In the future, if things are not respected, the Crees will be even wiser and there will be more of us to fight if we have to!

For today I put my trust in my leaders and if I have to fight tomorrow I will... Because no matter what happens I will always be a CREE!!! No agreement will ever be so binding to take that away, NEVER!!! My children will not be stupid and helpless like so many seem to think. Show a little faith in them and encourage them in the right way.

God bless the Crees and future generations.

A father of five future workers who will need jobs in Eeyou Astchee.

The new agreement in principle, a question of balance, an EDO's professional perspective.

Well here we are in the new millennium a new agreement has been brought to us, the Cree Nation. Do we say "Yes" or do we say "No" to this agreement? Certainly we cannot just kick back and say nothing about it. This is for our future.

I have heard bad things and good things about this new agreement. They say Quebec now wants to stop fighting, but do they really? Is it because they were campaigning overseas and did not get anywhere, because the first few towns they visited questioned them as to what they were doing to the Crees of Eeyou Istchee? I don't know, but we do realize that everywhere in the World there are some serious economic slowdowns in certain sections of the economy, if not all. There is also a question of supply and demand. We are to consider and look at the fact that Quebec's electrical power is generated by 96% hydro, which brings to mind that this is the government's serious economic base, they may need to generate more because of the demand internationally.

A recent article in the National Post business magazine (Oct. 2001 issue) said that, according to statistics, Quebec is reliant on hydro at 96.1%, nuclear at 2.2%, oil at 1.0% and other at 0.6% (example: windmills, etc.) in terms of energy.

Within the Cree World, we have serious unemployment rates and this will most likely increase, because of our ever-growing population. Wemindji has grown from 1096 people in 1998 to 1181 in 2000, an increase of approximately 42 persons a year. If we look at the growth of Wemindji, by the year 2050, we will have grown by roughly 2100 persons totaling approximately 3280.

We must find a sense of balance of all this. We have chosen to now live the contemporary way of life, integrated with our traditional ways which are a part of our culture and lifestyle. Well one thing is for certain; we need to focus our priorities more on Economic Development. For more justification on my personal and professional opinion, simply read on.

COMMUNICATION IN TODAY'S WORLD, OUR CREE WORLD.

We are now living in the information age. Our lives and our jobs revolve around information—its development, management, manipulation, processing and exchange. To exchange information, we must communicate. Knowing how to communicate successfully is valuable to you both professionally and personally. In your professional life language skills are vital in obtaining the job you want, in performing the tasks of your employment well, and in securing promotions within your profession. Aside from employment, good communication skills enable you to create a rich and satisfying personal life. Some things about ourselves we can't change, but other characteristics we can change. Proficiency is brought to mind.

I guess by proficiency we mean your skills in terms of communicating, you can always better yourself. It has been said that the four qualities of truly successful top executives are intelligence, integrity, empathy, and the ability to communicate, but is this really true? I certainly don't have all the answers; however, of the four, only communication is a learnable skill. Aspiring employees, as well as top executives, can learn to communicate well through instruction and practice.

This is why communication is so crucial in today's world, it is an excellent way of showing what you may want, need or desire.



Council of the Cree
Nation of Mistissini

*On behalf of the Neoskweskau Memorial Arena
and the Organizing Committee, it is our pleasure
to officially invite you to participate in our:*

Neoskweskau Memorial Arena
15th annual
INVITATIONAL SENIOR
HOCKEY AND BROOMBALL
TOURNAMENT
January 17-20, 2002

We will be giving away over \$39,500.00 in prize money and awards to six (6) different categories.

It will be disbursed as follows:

Category	# of teams	Inscription	Championship	Finalists
Men's Class "A"	8	\$900.	\$7,500.	\$4,000.
Men's Class "B"	8	\$800.	\$5,000.	\$3,000.
Men's Class "C" 30 + 8		\$700.	\$3,000.	\$1,500.
Old-Timers 40 +	8	\$700.	\$3,000.	\$1,500.
Broomball "Open"	8	\$800.	\$5,000.	\$3,000.
Women's Hockey	4	\$500.	\$2,000.	\$1,000.

Prize money may vary depending on the number of teams that register. The first teams to register and pay the inscription fees will be accepted. NO EXCEPTIONS. All other teams will be placed on stand-by.

All teams must send their inscription fee in full before the deadline date

Deadline to register: January 11th, 2002

For more information, contact: Jean-Baptiste Loon, Recreation Coordinator

Gordon Brien, Recreation Assistant
Tel: (418) 923-3461 ext. 322 or 246
Fax: (418) 923-3115 or 2112

It has been speculated that of all jobs created, 95 percent will be information or service related, and only 5 percent will be product or manufacturing related.

Instruction, practice, supervision, and feedback are important to effective communication and we should not overstate it until we are sure of what is to be communicated.

A question of scarcity, to be answered within our Cree lands

As the books would put it, all economic questions arise from the fundamental fact of scarcity. Scarcity means that wants exceed resources, which right now in the Cree world we are constantly questioning. Human wants are effectively unlimited but the resources available to satisfy them are not.

Economic activity is what people do to cope with scarcity. Scarcity forces people to make choices=(AIP). Making the best choice possible from what is available is called optimizing or economizing. In order to make the best possible choice, a person weighs the cost and benefits of the alternatives-optimizes opportunity cost is the cost of one choice in terms of the best-forgone alternative.

The opportunity cost of any action is the best alternative action that could have been undertaken in its place. Attending meetings instead of staying home has an opportunity cost- the cost of not being present and stating and listening to other peoples' comments.

Scarcity forces people to compete with each other for scarce resources (which is now politically happening in the Cree world). People may cooperate in certain areas, but all economic activity ultimately results in competition among individuals acting alone or in groups.

The economy, in an educational way

The economy is simply: People have unlimited wants but limited resources of factors of production- labor, land, and capital. The economy is a mechanism that allocates scarce resources (example: water for hydro production) among competing uses, determining what, how, and for whom the various goods and services will be produced.

The economy's two key components are decision makers and markets. Economic decision makers are households (people), firms (Hydro-Quebec), and governments (grand council/Quebec government). Households decide how much of their labor, land, and capital to sell or rent and how much of the various goods and services to buy. Firms decide what factors of production to employ and which goods and services to produce. Governments decide what goods and services to provide households and firms and how much to rise in prices/taxes maybe even \$.

The decisions of the households, firms, and governments are coordinated through markets in which prices adjust to keep buying plans and selling plans consistent.

Alternatively, coordination can be achieved by a command mechanism. Within the Canadian economy, it relies mainly on markets, but there is a command element in the actions taken by governments that also influences the allocation of scarce resources. Therefore in today's world we are in a mixed economy. But we as Cree people still have the leverage for the benefit of our future.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT A QUESTION OF UNDERSTANDING, DO WE REALLY?

I sometimes ask myself, what is economic development to us the people of the Cree Nation of James Bay. There are things that I have been taught, but should it be looked at in the same way as to how we currently feel about our current local economies and issues pertaining to politics.

It has been said and I quote, "When money burns, where does it go, but when you burn a forest what happens?" It makes

you think of what we already have, which is our land, consisting of the earth, water, forest and wildlife. Money is power they say, I beg to differ that without resources you cannot have this so called money we love so much.

I would like to share with you the basics of understanding, what an economy is all about or maybe what it should be focusing on. An understanding of economic principles can be applied in resolving or alleviating specific problems and in furthering the realization of our nation's overall goals. Economic principles are valuable as predictive devices. And prediction, even if not completely accurate, is required if we want to alter some event or outcome such as the one of the recent AIP with the Quebec Government. If some undesirable event such as unemployment or inflation can be predicted or understood through economical theories, we may then be able to influence or control the events which we are currently debating.

When all is said and done, we will still have no clear policy as to how, what, where, when, why, and who we are to look at for our own economies, locally and regionally. When one is to formulate a policy, it is designed to achieve specific goals, which is certainly no simple matter. There are three basic steps:

1) **Stating your goals:** Make it clear, if for instance, we say that we want "full employment," do we mean that everyone between 15 and 60 years of age should have a job? Or do we mean that everyone who wants to work should have a job? Should we allow for some "normal" unemployment caused by inevitable changes in the structure of industry and workers voluntarily changing jobs?

2) **Policy Options:** I guess in order to state and recognize the possible effects of alternative policies designed to achieve our goals, it requires a clear understanding of the economic impact benefits, costs, and political feasibility of alternative programs. For example, economists debate the relative merits and demerits of fiscal policy (which involves changing government/council spending and taxes/fees) and monetary policy (which entails altering the supply of money) as alternative means of achieving and maintaining full employment.

3) **Evaluation:** We are obligated to ourselves as a nation and future generations to review our experiences with chosen policies and evaluate their effectiveness; it is only through this evaluation that we can hope to improve policy applications (example; JBNQA, Ec. Dev. Section 28) Did any specific thing change or the supply of money alter the level of employment to the extent originally predicted? Did deregulation of a particular industry (for example, the airlines) yield the predicted beneficial results? If not why not?

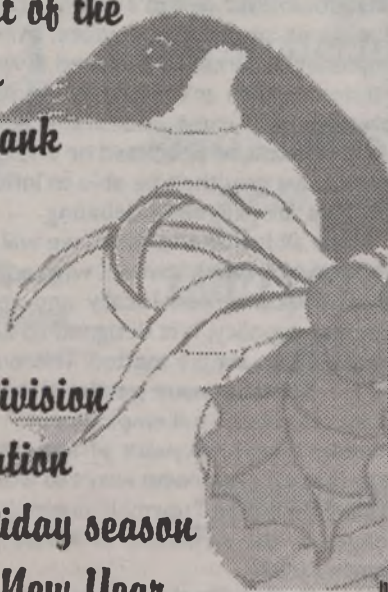
ONLY WE AS ONE NATION CAN DETERMINE THE FUTURE OF GENERATIONS TO COME.

"Eeyou estchee declaration of principles"

"We are Eeyou, we are a sovereign peoples. We are the original inhabitants of Eeyou Estchee and are one with Eeyou Estchee. Our power derives from the Creator, from the Eeyou Estchee. Our power derives from the Creator, from the Eeyou Estchee and from the living spirit of the land and waters. Eeyou Estchee comprises the ancestral and traditional lands which have sustained us and which we have occupied since time immemorial. It extends into other waters, territories and borders. We are the caretakers of Eeyou Estchee, which has been given to us by the Creator. We have the stewardship to protect and preserve the land for future generations. We have the right to develop the resources on Eeyou Estchee in accordance with Eeyou traditional principles of sustainable development. We have the right to harvest, the wildlife resources of Eeyou Estchee in accordance with the Eeyou way of life. All the resources, including the land, water, air, animals and Eeyou of Eeyou Estchee, must be protected from unilateral decisions by external forces. We have the inherent right to self-

LES MINES
INMET

*The management of the
Troilus Division
would like to thank
their employees
for their efforts
in the success
of the Troilus Division
and the Cree Nation
a wonderful holiday season
and prosperous New Year.*



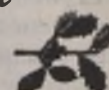
Auberge Kanio-Kashee Lodge

P.O. Box 360
Waskaganish, Quebec
James Bay, J0M 1R0
Tel.: 819-895-2005
Fax: 819-895-2008

*The staff and management of
AUBERGE KANIO-KASHEE LODGE
would like to thank all of our friends
and clients for your continuing support.*

We wish you all a very

*Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year*



**Q Hydro
Québec**

Hydro-Québec,
Direction Régionale
La Grande Rivière,
is proud to work
in partnership with
the Cree Nation.

*Wishing you all
a very Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year.*

determination and the right to govern ourselves. We have a distinct identity reflected in a distinct system of laws and government, philosophy, language, culture, heritage, values, customs, traditions, beliefs, and territory. Eeyou Estchee transcends the territorial boundaries of the province of Quebec, extending into other borders. We do not accept status quo regarding our present relationship with Quebec and Canada. Cree consent is required and mandatory for any changes to our status as Eeyou or to the status of Eeyou Estchee. As peoples with a right to self-determination, we shall freely decide our political status and associations and freely pursue our future as a people. We will assert and defend our inherent right to self-determination and the protection of Eeyou and Eeyou Estchee."

This message was adopted in the final report in 1996 by the Cree Eeyou Estchee Commission to present to the Cree Nation on the conduction of self-determination: the voice of a nation and people on Eeyou and Eeyou Estchee

Yours in Cree nation-ship,

Tony Gull

**Husband, and Father of two beautiful children
E.D.O. of the Cree Nation of Wemindji
A Youth of our Cree Nation**



Hello Editor:

I really appreciated the article by David Seagal about the Rupert River.

Maybe you should laminate and distribute it, so people can put it on their walls. As a fellow canoe paddler, I really identified with it. I've never paddled on the Rupert, but whenever I pass km 256 I stop my car to look at those powerful rapids and thank Chisha Munito.

Rev. Christopher Davis, Wemindji



Congrats to Grand Chief and Premier

First and foremost, I would like to congratulate Grand-Chief Ted Moses and Premier Bernard Landry and their colleagues for making a positive historic event in the Cree Nation with the signing of the Agreement in Principle on October 23, 2001. I believe the agreement in principle is a first of its kind in implementing a better relationship with the Quebec government, to become more united than ever.

After the Crees signed an agreement in principle with the Quebec Government, like most people, I was shocked. A great fear came upon me thinking about the rivers and land in which I grew up being partially destroyed, especially on the shores of the Great Rupert River, where the circle of life is very active. I was devastated, thinking that my culture, my tradition, and the way of life will be put out of existence. I was very upset by our leadership, how could our leadership betray the Cree nation and us as people?. Many questions were not answered.

After reading the Agreement in Principle, I had a change of heart. I thought about the reality of our people, our youth, and the generations to come, the high rate of unemployment in Cree Nation and a great need of housing within our communities. And with the agreement, I understand that my rights, my culture, my tradition and my way of life will not be seized. I would like to define the phrase "way of life." A way of life is how we live today, not the past lives of others, but our present lives. Before the signing of the JBNQA, the Cree way of life was to hunt for survival, they relied on the land and animals for their survival. Today our way of life is to bring food to our tables for our families. It was said "once the last tree has been cut down then we realize that money cannot be eaten," but the last time I went to the

grocery store, I had to exchange currency for food and goods. In order to bring food to my house, I need money. For me to have money, I need to work.

The reality is that the majority of the youth and middle age persons are seeking employment rather than make a living off the land. The reality is that many of the talented youth are jobless. Some young families with dependents struggle to make a living with a government program called social assistance, in other words WELFARE. With no doubt, all parents want their children to have stable job so they can support their own families.

What about housing, doesn't everybody want a shelter of his or her own? There have been numerous complaints to the government that there is a great need of housing in Cree communities. A high percentage of people in Cree communities are without a dwelling of their own. In a Cree world, a four-bedroom bungalow can have as many as 15 people in it. Three's a crowd, but four couples living in one unit is too much, it creates a lot of social problems. This may sometimes lead to a division amongst family members.

Wouldn't a finalized agreement **create employment and more housing** for our communities?

Without prejudice, I see that the most that oppose the agreement in principle are people who have good education or secure jobs. They are very fortunate and privileged for having a good education, secure jobs and experiencing the world of many opportunities whereas the majority of the youth don't have that opportunity. With a final agreement, I believe it will open many doors for our youth, our people, and generations to come.

The people that seem to be in favor of the agreement are some tallymen and the elderly people. Some tallymen want to give up some of their land and rivers because they want their children, grandchildren, and great grand children to live prosperous lives. It touches my heart to see a tallyman sacrifice some of his land that will be beneficial to the Cree nation on a long term..

In respect to the agreement in principle, it clearly states that tallyman's way of life will not be at stake unless otherwise stated in the agreement. The tallyman's way of life will not change drastically as it did in 1975 when the first agreement was signed. Nowadays, we have adapted to a modern society.

Sure the land is very beautiful, but what about our people, our youth, our friends, and our families. If you see someone you love very much suffer from many financial problems that will lead to a very unhappy lifestyle, would you rather save the land than help a friend? Doesn't God love his people more the land? What is more important to you, humanity, or the land?

Our leaders have fought many political battles with governments, just to persuade the government to implement their outstanding obligations and promises made in the JBNQA that was signed in '75 between the Grand Council of the Crees and the Quebec Government. There were a lot of pros and cons within the first agreement, but if it weren't for the first agreement, we would have been a real poor nation. Our government would play us around as if we were just puppets. But with the JBNQA in place, we have the tools, skills, and resources to defend our land, our rights, and preserve our culture.

With self-determination, our voices had been heard at a national and international level. The Quebec government wanted to take advantage of our political regime but realized we were not just any Indians. We were a strong nation defending our rights and our land. Numerous legal battles were at a cycle costing both parties millions of dollars and yet not coming to a mutual agreement. After 25 years, finally the Quebec Government heard the voices of the Crees and their actions. I believe he doesn't

It's time to register your firearms

Look for your
form in the
mail!

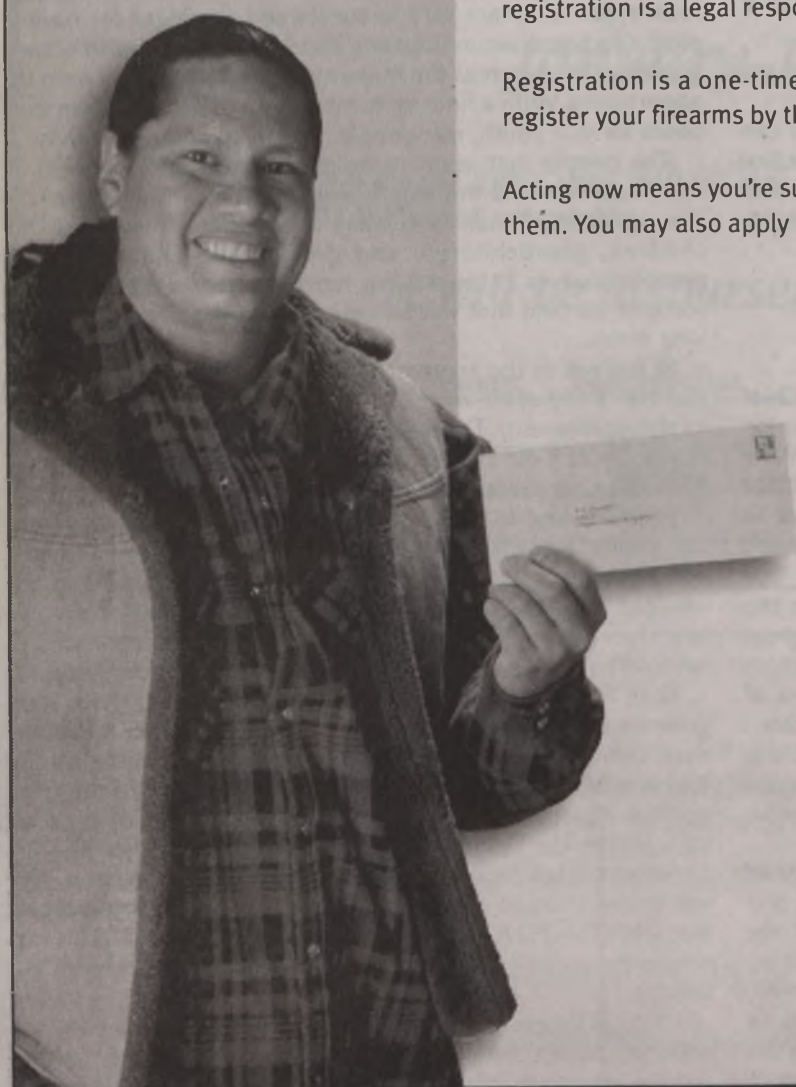
Right now,
registration is **FREE!**

Your personalized and easy-to-complete firearm registration form is already on its way to you by mail if you hold a valid firearms licence or Firearms Acquisition Certificate (FAC). You must have your licence or FAC before you can register. Firearm registration is a legal responsibility for all firearm owners.

Registration is a one-time endeavour. You can save the \$18 fee if you apply to register your firearms by the deadline indicated on your form.

Acting now means you're sure to have your registration documents **before** you need them. You may also apply to register on-line. Visit www.cfc.gc.ca for details.

- **Registration works** towards improving public safety by recognizing owner accountability for the safe use and storage of firearms.
- **Any restricted or prohibited firearms** that you registered under the former law must be re-registered. There is no fee for re-registration.
- **An amnesty is in effect** until December 31, 2001, to allow those in possession of unregistered, restricted firearms to either register or properly dispose of them.
- **Registration enables police** to trace firearms that may have been stolen, illegally imported, illegally manufactured, or bought on the black market.
- **Insurance coverage and claims** can be obtained or handled more easily for owners of registered firearms.
- **By law**, all firearms must be registered by the end of 2002.



For more information, call 1 800 731-4000
or visit www.cfc.gc.ca

Canada

have much choice but to resolve and regenerate his relations with the Almighty Crees.

With the agreement in principle, I understand that we as sovereign people, will co-exist with the Quebec government, making us (Cree Nation) the first of its kind to be recognized as a Nation by a Government in Canada. A good leader always makes peace with its allies and neighbors, they eventually join forces and become a stronger nation. Nation to nation agreement will surely strengthen our political, economic, and social relations with the Quebec Government whereas we will have a major role in an economic development on the James Bay territory. Is not unity stronger than separatism?

There is a saying "the poor get poorer, and the rich get richer." With greater autonomy and greater responsibility on our economy, surely we will become a richer nation. I'm not saying this agreement is the solution to our problems, but for the betterment of our modern lives.

We have one GOD, we might as well be one. When you Multiply one Cree Nation, one Quebec Government, and one Canadian government, guess what, the answer is still ONE. We might as well be in a trinity working group.

I believe that a finalized agreement will open many opportunities that have been long fought by our Cree Leadership. If the final agreement goes through, I hold out on one condition, that the moneys be divided and disbursed to communities. Not withholding payments or stashing the cash in some heritage fund but putting the money where it's needed most, employment and housing for our people.

In my opinion, I implement to stand as a "**Nation to Nation**" than to be "**Nation against Nation**" with governments.

Larry Shecapio
Mistissini



Letter to the Editor – The Nation

Subject: Letter dated "October 23, 2051," page 19, issue 9-1, november 30th 2001.

As I see it, this letter was written supposedly through the eyes of a child. I wish to express my concern; someone is resorting to using children to depict disrespect, anger and resentment. This is deplorable and totally unacceptable.

Although, we do not always and cannot agree on some issues that affect our lives and our people, it is only thorough meaningful dialogue and discussions that we can all come to a common understanding, thereby maintaining mutual respect for each other.

Let children be children as the Creator intended them to be.

Nellie Pashagumiskum
Chisasibi



Letter published in the Eastern Door, November 30th, 2001

Cree should not sign tree-cutting accord

Dear Editor,

I must admit that the announcement of a preliminary agreement between the Crees' Grand Chief and Quebec's Grand Chief Bernard Landry on the rights of tree-cutting in the Boreal forest was an enormous disappointment to me, because this would enable the tree-cutting companies to have carte-blanc to destroy the wooded area in the north as they are doing elsewhere in Quebec.

Moreover, it's because there is no more wood left in the south

that these companies have asked Grand Chief Landry to negotiate this practice with the Crees. This Boreal forest is one of the last unspoiled areas on earth.

The unconsciousness of the politicians in the fight against air pollution and construction planned by Hydro-Quebec to build a production centre in Beauharnois using natural gas does not auger well for future generations.

While the Boreal forest is contributing to absorb significant quantities of carbon dioxide gas, it is an extremely fragile area. The arrival of enormous cutting machines, would not only destroy an important ecological system but would also ruin the thin layer of soil in that region. This earth would then be rapidly washed away by rain and erosion, signifying the forest's extinction.

The arrival of Man on Earth was possible thanks to the forest which contributed to the production of the atmosphere. Therefore, by destroying the forest, we are shooting ourselves in the foot. I beleive if the Crees sign this agreement, they will not only lose their ancestral rights but also their honour, their identity and their soul.

In the past, we have seen jaded Indian Chiefs kneel down before white invaders who tempted them with cheap gifts such as necklaces, mirrors and other baubles. Now it seems that certain chiefs are ready to do the same thing for a handful of dollars.

Let us hope that Native Chiefs such as Volant, Picard and Coon Come make their Cree counterparts understand that by taking this money from the white man, they are selling out Mother Earth.

U.S. businessmen covet our inexpensive wood just as they have developed a liking for cheap Latin American fruit and coffee. We are perhaps not a Banana Republic, but a Spruce and Pine Tree Republic!

Jean-Paul Levesque
Chateauguay



On behalf

of the members of the
Cree Nation of Waswanipi
we would like to
congratulate

Abraham Rupert
on his newly
elected position as
Chief of
Chisasibi First Nation.

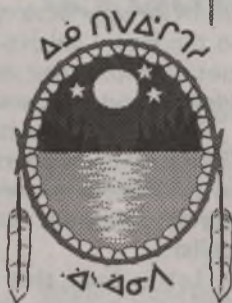
At this time we would also like
to say a **job well done** to
Violet Pachanos
on her term and
Best Wishes for the future.

CONGRATULATIONS



ᓵ ᓕᓗᓂᓕᓕᓕ ᓵ ᓕᓗᓂᓕᓕᓕ

*On behalf
of the members of
the Cree First Nation
of Waswanipi,
we wish to extend the
warmest of wishes
for a happy, healthy
and safe holiday
season to all.*



ᓕᓕᓕ ᓕᓕᓕᓕᓕ
Cree School Board
Commission scolaire Crie

*Season's Greetings
with all good wishes
for a Merry Christmas*



*Best wishes for
Peace and Joy
this Holiday Season*

Merry Christmas



Chee-Bee Construction Company Inc
A wholly owned subsidiary of the Cree Nation of Chisasibi

ᓵ ᓕᓗᓂᓕᓕᓕ ᓵ ᓕᓗᓂᓕᓕᓕ



WACHIYA!

- Hunting • Fishing • Camping •
- Ammunition • Sporting Goods •
- Automotive Parts & Repair •
- Hardware & Houseware •

C.O.D.'s ACCEPTED

TOLL FREE: 1-877-825-9998

Phone or Fax in your orders

Fax: 819-825-3003

VAL-D'OR

1325 3^{ème} Avenue

Associate Dealer

Re: Agreement in Principle

Dear Ted,

I am writing to express my serious concerns regarding the Agreement in Principle reached with the government of Quebec, and its implications for the future of the Crees of the Waskaganish First Nation.

As you know, I supported the signing of the AIP on the grounds that I and the people I represent would have full opportunity to examine in detail the proposed Eastmain-Rupert River hydro projects before any final agreement was signed. I also relied upon your assurances at the time that, if even only one or two Cree communities opposed the agreement, it would not go ahead.

As time goes on Council and I are becoming increasingly concerned that a full airing of the implications of the Rupert diversion for the river and for the people of Waskaganish will not occur. True, there have been consultations in our community, but they have been inadequate. While our people have been given the opportunity to discuss the project, they have been denied the information necessary to make an informed decision. At the same time, you have ordered your staff and consultants who have studied the project in detail to remain silent, and refuse to talk to us or to provide us with any information.

It is difficult for us to understand why you seek to prevent the community from obtaining an in-depth understanding of the project and its implications. Hydro-Quebec and the government of Quebec sought your approval of these projects for a very long time, before they persuaded you to accept them. Before you agreed, you insisted on detailed information about the project, its economic and its environmental consequences, and sufficient resources to allow you to have that information analyzed by your own staff and your consultants.

As a result, you have apparently become convinced that the impacts of the projects, on the Rupert River, on the Waskaganish First Nation are tolerable. While I respect your judgment, you cannot expect the support of this community on the strength of your understanding of the AIP, while not having any understanding of the full and unequivocal impacts on the interests of the Cree Nation. So I carry out my mandate to protect the interests of the Waskaganish First Nation.

As you can well imagine, I have little enthusiasm for going down in history as the Waskaganish Chief who signed the death warrant for the Rupert River, as was the case for the Eastmain River. In exchange for these projects, you did obtain very important benefits for the Cree Nation in the AIP. However, if the people of Waskaganish are to make such a great sacrifice for the greater well being of the Cree Nation, they must do so with the fullest possible understanding of the implications of this act. As you well know, river ecosystems are exceedingly complex, and there is no way that the people of Waskaganish can fully grasp the consequences of a drastic reduction in the Rupert's flow without detailed information, expert assistance and analyses. I therefore implore you to instruct your staff and consultants to respond fully and openly to all inquiries from our community. To provide us with whatever documentation you have access to, whether provided by Quebec or Hydro-Quebec, or produced by your own staff and consultants and to provide us with sufficient resources to engage the outside help we will require to digest and interpret this information.

Perhaps, with proper consultation and full disclosure of the issues, the people of Waskaganish will become convinced, as you apparently are, that the impacts of the diversion on the Rupert



and on the people of Waskaganish are small, relative to the Agreement's benefits for the Cree Nation as a whole. I understand that you are seeking to complete the consultations by December 20, 2001, just a few short weeks from now and to seek ratification for the final Agreement in January 2002. It appears unlikely that we will be in a position to support the AIP within this timeframe, given the lack of information and limited public consultations.

I am sure you understand that my primary responsibility is to the Waskaganish First Nation and to its people. As a member of the Grand Council, I of course feel a deep solidarity with my colleagues and with the Cree Nation as a whole. However, because of this solidarity I am compelled to write this letter to bring to your attention the deep fear and concern afflicting this community regarding the AIP. While I do not want to prejudge, I would expect that the people of Waskaganish might reject the final agreement to be ratified in January.

In this respect, I was very disturbed by the comments you made at the community consultation in Waskaganish, when you said that the project might go ahead even over the objections of one or two communities. In the fight over the Great Whale River project, it was clear that the Cree Nation would never impose the project on the people of Whapmagoostui, if they did not freely choose to accept it. We can only hope that the same rights will be recognized for the Cree Nation of Waskaganish. It was on the basis of this understanding that I supported the AIP. It would be a sad day for the Cree Nation if the Grand Council tried to go ahead with the diversion of the Rupert River without the support of my community, which puts into question the fate of future generations.

Sincerely,

Chief Robert Weistche
Waskaganish First Nation

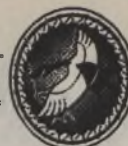
Conseil Cri de la santé
et des services
sociaux de la Baie James

ᑕᑕᑕᑕ ᑕᑕ ᑕᑕᑕ ᑕᑕᑕ
ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ

Cree Board of Health and
Social Services of James Bay



*The Board of Directors
and all employees of the
Cree Board of Health and
Social Services of James Bay
wishes everyone a safe
Christmas holiday
with your loved ones!*



ᑕᑕᑕᑕ ᑕᑕᑕ ᑕᑕᑕ
Cree-Naskapi Commission

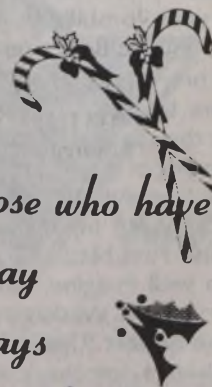
ᑕᑕᑕᑕ ᑕᑕ ᑕᑕ ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ
La commission Crie-Naskapie

*From all of us
at the Cree Naskapi Commission
have yourself
a safe and happy holiday.
Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year*



THE CREE CONSTRUCTION AND
DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LTD.

*At the Holiday Season, our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have made
our progress possible. It is in this spirit we say
Thank you and Best Wishes for the Holidays*



IBDO

BDO Dunwoody



*Best wishes to our friends and clients in James Bay.
We hope that you have a safe and happy holiday
with your friends and family
and that 2002 is a year of peace and prosperity.*

4150 St-Catherine W. Suite 600
Montreal, Quebec H3Z 2Y5

Phone: (514) 931-0841
1-800-319-4933
Fax: (514) 931-9491

Will on the Grill

by Will Nicholls

Well with all this AIP stuff taking up so much space we thought we had better add a few pages so we can bring you some Christmas cheer. During Christmas there's always a lot of visiting so I thought I would include some recipes for your visitors. Neil loved the Christmas Bread recipe so expect some if you visit him. Normally I don't include very many sweet tooth or fattening recipes but the Candy Cane Fudge is an exception I'm making. It's simple, fast and will be gone before you know it.

At the end is a very nice recipe that I have tried out recently. I used moose for the stroganoff and it was great. Thanks to my buddy for passing this one on to me. The cranberry sauce is an easy one to make and tastes great. Goes great with turkey!

Merry Christmas to one and all from Will on the Grill!

Christmas Tree Bread

2/3 cup milk
1/2 cup granulated sugar
1 large egg, yolk and white separated
3/4 cup (4 ounces) diced dried fruit mix
2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1 tablespoon baking powder
1 1/2 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice
(or 3/4 tsp ground cinnamon & 3/4 tsp ground cloves)
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 stick cold, unsalted butter, cut to small pieces
Granulated sugar

Check to see that one rack is in bottom third of oven and heat oven to 425 degrees F. Measure milk in a 2-cup measure, add sugar and egg yolk, stir to mix well. Stir in dried fruit. Let stand until ready to use. Put flour, baking powder, spice, and salt into a large bowl, stir to mix well. Add butter and cut in with pastry blender or rub in with fingers, until mixture looks like fine granules. Stir milk mixture and pour over flour mixture. Stir with a fork until a soft dough forms. Turn out dough onto a lightly floured surface and give 10 kneads. (If very sticky, let stand 3 or 4 minutes or add a little more flour.)

Cut off about one-fourth of the dough. Put remaining dough on an ungreased cookie sheet at least 16 inches long. Using both rolling pin and fingers, pat and roll dough into a flat triangle about 12 inches long and 9 inches wide across the bottom. With scissors, make about ten diagonal cuts down each long side of the triangle, cutting to within about 1 inch of the center. Shape a small piece of reserved dough into a trunk at bottom of tree and remaining dough into a "pot."

Dough may now be covered with plastic wrap and refrigerated

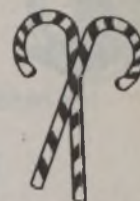
for a couple of hours or frozen for up to 2 weeks.

Bake tree 10 minutes. Beat egg white with a fork until broken up. Brush over hot bread, sprinkle with sugar. Bake 5 to 8 minutes longer, until light brown.

With two spatulas, carefully transfer tree to a wire rack. If possible, cool at least 2 hours before serving. Let guests break off small pieces.

Candy Cane Fudge

12 oz white chocolate, coarsely chopped
14 oz can sweetened condensed milk
1/4 c coarsely chopped peppermint candies



Butter an 8-inch square baking pan; line bottom and sides with foil allowing foil to extend over sides of pan by about 1". Butter foil.

Over medium-high heat in top of double-boiler or heatproof bowl set over pot of hot water combine white chocolate and condensed milk. Cook, stirring frequently, until melted and smooth, 5 minutes. Pour mixture into pan; sprinkle candy over top. Using knife lightly swirl candy into chocolate mixture. Refrigerate until firm, about 6 hours or overnight. Cut into 1" squares, diamond shapes or rectangles. Store in refrigerator.

Mulled Cider

1/2 C Brown Sugar
2 Qt Cider Vinegar
1 Tsp Allspice — whole
1 1/2 Tsp Cloves — whole
2 Sticks Cinnamon
Orange Slices

Put all ingredients in crock-pot. If desired, tie whole spices in cheesecloth or put in tea strainer. If spices are added loose, strain before serving. Cover; cook on Low 2 to 8 hours. Serve from the crock pot with a ladle, or if using a coffee pot, right out of the spout in place of coffee.

Chocolate Mint

6 Peppermint tea bags
6 cups (48 oz.) milk
6 tablespoons hot chocolate mix

Place tea bags in bottom of pan. Add milk and heat to just under boiling. Remove tea bags. Place one tablespoon chocolate in each mug and pour one cup of hot-minted milk over chocolate.

Holiday Wassail

4 cups Apple juice or cider
1 cup Water
4 Tea bags
1 cup Cranberry juice
2 tbs Lemon juice
1/3 cup Brown sugar
3 Whole allspice
3 Whole cloves
1 Cinnamon stick, broken



ᐃᑭᑦ ᑕᑕᑭᑦᑕᑦ
Cree Regional Authority
Administration regional Crie

ᐃᑕᑕᑦᑕᑦ ᐃᑕᑕᑦᑕᑦ ᐃᑕᑕᑦᑕᑦ
ᑕᑕᑕᑦ ᑕᑕᑕᑦ

Grand Council of the Crees
(Eeyou Istchee)
Grand conseil des Cris
(Eeyou Istchee)



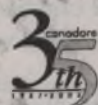
*We wish to extend
the warmest of wishes
for a happy, healthy and safe
holiday season to all.*



•x• ᑕ ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ ᑕ ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ •x•

**The Aboriginal Learning Unit wishes
you peace, love and good things this
holiday season!**

Aboriginal Learning Unit, Canadore College
100 College Drive, North Bay, ON P1B 8K9
(705) 474-7600, ext 5482
www.canadorec.on.ca
E-mail: kerri@canadorec.on.ca



canadore
college

*Very best wishes
for a happy
holidays season.*

*May you all have a
Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year*

*Many thanks to all our
costumers for your
continuing support.*



**Nemaska Motel
& Restaurant**

2 Lake shore Rd. • Nemaska
Quebec • JOY 3B0
Tel.: (819) 673-2615
Fax: (819) 673-2233



**Ouje-Bougoumou
Cree Nation**

*Very best wishes
to all for a
happy holiday and
a Merry Christmas*

ᑕ ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ ᑕ ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ

1/8 tsp Ground nutmeg
Sliced apple rings (for garnish)

Bring apple juice and water to a boil in a large saucepan. Add tea bags, cover and let steep for 5 minutes. Remove tea bags. Stir in remaining juices and spices. Simmer for about 10 minutes. Strain out the spices and serve, with apple rings for garnish.

Marmalade Tea

5 cups boiling water
3 tea bags
1/2 cup orange marmalade
2 tbs sugar
2 tbs lemon juice

Add tea bag to hot water and let steep for 5 minutes. Stir in marmalade, sugar and lemon juice. Strain if desired. Makes about 5 cups

Spirit of the Season Punch

1 quart water
5 Tea Bags
1 gallon apple juice or cider
1 cup lemon juice
2 cups brown sugar
12 whole allspice
12 whole cloves
4 cinnamon sticks, broken
1 bottle (4/5 qt.) red wine
Apple slices

In large saucepan, bring water to a boil. Add tea bags; cover and brew 5 minutes. Remove tea bags. Stir in juices, sugar and spices. Simmer, stirring occasionally, 10 minutes. Remove spices; stir in wine and heat through. Garnish with apple slices. 40 (5-oz.) servings.

Caribou or Moose Stroganoff

1-1/2 pounds caribou or moose cut in thin strips
1/2 cup flour
1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. pepper
1/4 stick butter
1/2 pound fresh mushrooms
1/2 cup sliced onion
1 clove garlic, minced
1/4 tsp. dill weed
1/2 tsp. paprika
2 cups beef bouillon
1 cup sour cream

Roll the steak in a mixture of flour, salt, pepper, dill, and paprika. Brown the butter in a large skillet. Add the steak,

mushrooms, onions and garlic. Add bouillon and let simmer for about 45 minutes. Stir in sour cream (make sure mixture does not come to a boil).

In a different pot boil stroganoff noodles.

Simmer a few more minutes until heated through and serve over hot noodles.

Beginner's Cranberry Sauce

24 ounces fresh or frozen whole cranberries (washed and picked over)
2 cups Sugar
2 cup Water
2 whole cinnamon sticks

This is a nice simple recipe to start with. You'll taste the difference between it and the canned variety.

Mix sugar and water in a saucepan. Stir to dissolve sugar and add cinnamon sticks. Bring to boil, add cranberries, return to boil, reduce heat. Boil Gently stirring occasionally, for 10 minutes or until the berries begin to pop. Remove from heat. Cool completely at room temperature and refrigerate.



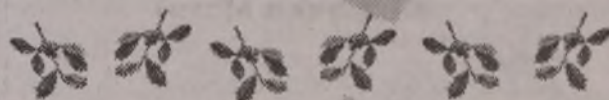
ΔΔΔ CREE
Cree Regional Authority
Board of Compensation
Tel.: (418) 7453931



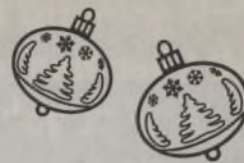
*On behalf of the members and staff
of the CRA Board of Compensation
and CREECO, we wish you a
wonderful Holiday Season
with happiness and prosperity
throughout the coming year!*

Roderick Pachano
Chariman/ President


Matthew Happyjack
Vice-Chairman

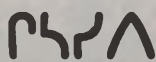
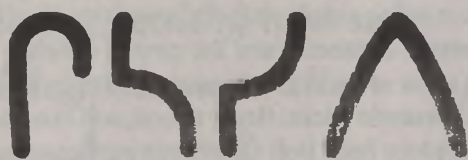


*Le conseil d'administration et tout le personnel de la
SDBJ profitent de cette occasion pour vous souhaiter un très
Joyeux Noël ainsi que leurs vœux de bonheur, santé et
prospérité pour la nouvelle année. . .*



Société
de développement
de la Baie-James

Québec 



Chisasibi Centre Inc.
P.O. Box 330 Chisasibi
Quebec J0M 1E0
Tel.: (819) 855-2838

*Our best wishes
for a happy
holiday season*



CREE NATION OF
WEMINDJI

*In the spirit of good will and friendship,
the staff and council of the Cree Nation
of Wemindji would like to wish a
Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year
to all the Cree communities.*

RAM Page

Diablo II

By Blizzard
-Will Nicholls

By the Dark Wanderer I have waited for quite some time to get my hands on Diablo II. The hype on the net for this one was overwhelming. This is one of the few games that has such a large following that you can actually sell things you pick in the game like armour, weapons, Horadic Cubes and whatnot on eBay. That's right, there are people out there willing to buy a games paraphenilia. They use their credit cards and then you get on battlenet (the games internet multiplayer forum) and drop it off for them.

Diablo II is a story of angels and demons and you are a hero who tries to stop Evil from taking over the world. You can be one of five characters: a Necromancer, who raises the dead to fight for him, a Sorceress, who uses magic, a strong Barbarian, a knightly Paladin (my favourite) or an Amazon.

It is a continuation of Diablo (the devil) and it is stimulating. Each episode takes us to the next in a storyline. What is really neat is that the storyline changes when you come back to it. Say you want to take a level or episode over again? The monsters change each time so you aren't too bored while getting more money or looking for special objects. This makes replaying innovative and fun.

Someone said the game is as additive as crack. Personally I would never try crack but this game is additive and I can't wait to start on the other characters. The graphics show a lot of work went into the scenery. This was a minor problem with the last game but seems to have worked out well this time around. I was impressed.

One of the reasons why I will be trying out the other characters is that each one of them has different abilities and powers. The Paladin, for example, can heal others. No other character has this ability. He has a skill tree in which you chose where to put points. What helps you in the beginning is pretty much worthless in the end and there is a point where the differences between skill level 7 & 8 don't really matter so you should put the skill point elsewhere. It is these skills which allow you to have an unique character all your own. After all you made the choices that created the character.

There is a random magic items generation. I guess this is so that the eBayers will have something to sell. Not really, it just makes the game more interesting as you can get different things each time. Some are of benefit for your character but others will benefit other characters. For example the War Specter has features that only the Paladin can use while the Grim Wand will only benefit the Necromancer.

In short there is a whole new bunch of weapons, quests and maps with a horde of new characters that will keep you occupied for some time if you like the role playing games.

I give this baby a full thumbs up because the friend who lent this game to me is going to be waiting a while before she sees it again. By the way.... anyone have the expansion pack?



So you are thinking of getting a computer for Christmas?

What about a Cree-friendly computer?

- Marie-Odile Junker-

If you are thinking of asking Santa for a computer for Christmas, there are a few things that Santa and you need to know if you want your computer to allow you to read and write in Cree syllabics.

If you do not care about going on the Internet with Cree, and you just want to do desktop publishing and word processing, then you are fine with a used or older computer, using Operating systems like Windows ME, 1998, 1995 or for the Mac OS 9, 8 and 7.5.

However, if you want to go on the Internet, send and receive mail, and publish web sites with Cree syllabics, then you MUST get a computer with an operating system that supports Unicode. Unicode is the international, multilingual encoding standard for fonts all over the world, and it includes Canadian Cree syllabics. Operating systems that do support Unicode are Windows XP and 2000, and for Macs, OS X.

At this point, not all applications will support Unicode. Very few exist for Mac OS X, so the choice for this year is a computer with Windows 2000 or XP and applications that support Unicode. When buying software, do not forget to ask the following question: "Does this software support Unicode?" To ensure that the vendor you are talking to knows what he is talking about, ask whether you can return the machine or the software if it does not support Cree syllabics.

By doing so, you will also bring greater awareness about the Cree language to the computer world.

Good luck in your own and Santa's shopping!

Gaming On the Palm Pilot III

-Will Nicholls

I borrowed a Palm Pilot from the good folks at Gameloft, a sister company of Ubi Soft. These game creators extraordinaire are always at the cutting edge. Being familiar with the Game Boy I wondered how the games for Palm Pilot's would measure up. I need not have even thought of it. It was like comparing apples and oranges as the games were crisp and clear compared to what I remembered on the Game boy. The three games I looked at were Casino (slots, blackjack and poker), Pinball and Race Fever.

I decided to do the blind test and didn't look at any instructions to see how user friendly the games were. By far the easiest to learn and the one I played with the most was Casino. You had a choice of blackjack, poker or the slots. I won big and then lost everything while maxing the bets. It was fun and taught me a bit about the games of chance. Perhaps instead of spending millions on new machines Loto-Quebec could invest in these babies to cut down on the gambling addictions everyone's worried about.

Coming in a close second was pinball. A nice simple game to master. Given a little more time this one could become addictive.

By far the hardest but with its own rewards was Race Fever. People who are used to the Game Boy style of controls will have no problems mastering this game. I crashed and burned numerous times but had fun nevertheless.

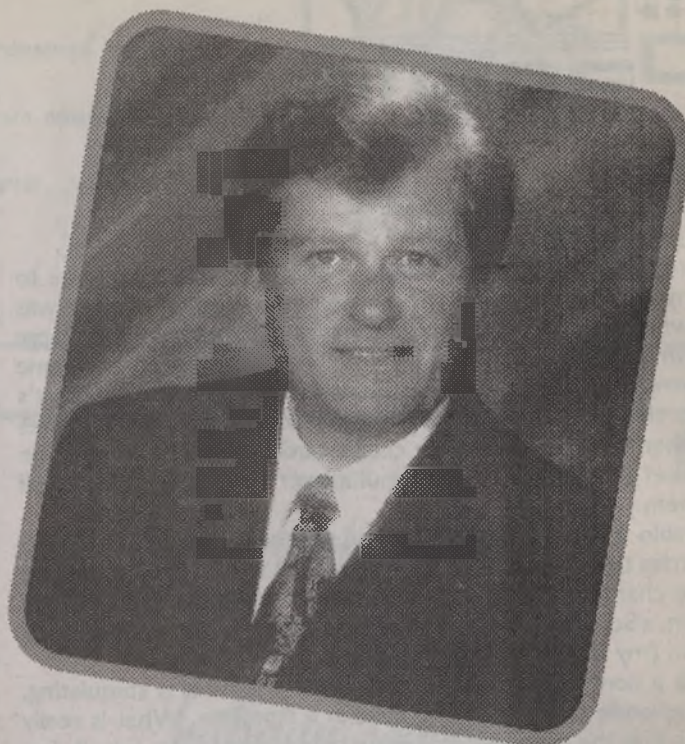
In the course of my investigations I found out that there were more games available for Pocket PC as 80 % of the sales were in this category compared to 20% for Palm Pilot.

I would recommend getting a few of these games for those times you are kept waiting. It'll help pass the time.



**Ville de
Val-d'Or**

**Wachiya!
Welcome!
Bienvenue!**



As Mayor of Val-d'Or and on behalf of all citizens, I wish to congratulate all the athletes and thank family members and supporters who attended the Cree Nation Tournament in our beautiful city from December 5-6-7-8-9, 2001.

I believe that such an event contributes in both the sharing and exchanging of our cultural, social and business relationships.

Val-d'Or, being an attractive city and the most important commercial and industrial centre in the area is proud to host such an event for the Cree Nation of James Bay.

We are happy to have greeted you once again for this special sporting event and rest assured that your community will always be welcomed in Val-d'Or.

**Merry
Christmas!**

**Let's
make it a
tradition!**

**Wachiya!
Wishing you always a pleasant stay!
Mayor Fernand Trahan**

The Rupert River, "Jewel of the North"

by Kevin Warr & Michelle Callaway

After working in Quebec's Cree region and experiencing it's beauty first-hand, I wanted to share it with my husband. Being avid canoeists, we decided to explore the region by canoe this summer and chose the Rupert River, a famous fur trade route.

We bought a few maps, drove up north and found ourselves standing at the bridge where the James Bay highway crosses the Rupert river at Plumb Pudding Rapids. We stood there for a while, admiring the beauty of the waterfalls. My eyes shifted back and forth between the waterfalls on the upriver side of the bridge (they looked like Niagara Falls to me), and the very rough water on the downriver side. By the time my husband innocently pointed out how rough the water was, for the third time, my stomach was in my throat. The rapids looked rough and I wondered if it was like that all the way down to Waskaganish. I began to doubt if I could, in fact, canoe it. We walked slowly back to the parking lot beside the bridge, during which time I began wishing I had taken up hobbies other than canoeing, say maybe stamp collecting or Ukrainian Easter Egg painting.

However, my fears soon subsided upon meeting Robert Weistche, Chief of the Waskaganish First Nation. He had, quite by chance, parked his car in the lot beside ours. Robert told us a great deal about the river, and assured us that the whole river was not one continuous stretch of whitewater, despite what I saw before me. Next, as fate would have it, a vanload of Cree elders pulled into the parking lot to have lunch while we were talking. They invited us over for a delicious meal of smoked whitefish and bannock and listened to our plans for canoeing the river. Fortune smiled on us because Alex Weistche, one of the elders, had been guiding canoe brigades of Cree young people on the river for years. He was kind enough to draw each of the portages and camps onto the maps for us with such precision that afterward we were able to navigate them flawlessly, even when we were caught by the dark.

Before we left for Waskaganish, Robert pointed out that a Cree camp downstream near the bridge has been traditionally known as a "happy place". A long time ago, those staying at the camp typically left food for the next weary traveler coming in. This became a theme for us during our trip, as we too were made happy because we were provided for in many unexpected ways during our journey. Things would often turn up just when we needed them, beginning with our meeting the Chief and the Elders prior to our trip on the river.

We drove down the bumpy road still under construction into Waskaganish where we met Nathalie, one of the teachers, who kindly invited us to sleep at her place for the night. The next morning, Bob Patton, the local Tourism Officer and his co-worker, Gordon, helped us get set up and drove us back up to the Bridge so our car would be waiting for us in Waskaganish. Talk about a helpful bunch of people!

We waved goodbye to Bob and Gordon, and as our canoe bobbed over the waves, I turned around occasionally to watch them disappearing. We didn't expect to see anyone else for several days, so I just wanted one last look. After paddling into the evening, we pulled into a nice spot on a rocky island in the middle of the river. We sat by the warm fire, eating our first meal under the Northern Lights as they danced gracefully over the horizon. We were lulled to sleep by the sound of the river gently lapping at the shore.

We set off early the next morning. The winds were calm and we made good progress as the power of the river pulled us along quickly. We discovered quickly, however, that the westerly



winds became brisk with the approaching of the midday sun. When we were paddling on the wide, flat sections of the river, we often found ourselves battling 3-foot waves and moving backwards faster than forwards. It was then that we pulled to shore and lounged around on the beach or went fishing, resuming paddling in the evening calm or even after sunset. We would rise before dawn the next morning and go as far as possible before the wind came up. It was on these days that we were particularly grateful for Alex's map of portage routes and Cree camps. Normally we camped on a beach or a rocky outcrop, but occasionally, when paddling into the night we wouldn't have found a suitable camping spot without his map. We wished he could have come along with us, but having his notes on our map was the next best thing.

We did our first portage early the second day. These portages were used for centuries by Cree moving between the coast and the inland. The trails are well-maintained by the Cree Youth Brigades on their annual canoe trip going upriver from Waskaganish to "Old Nemaska" and back. These were the brigades Alec had helped guide. This "summer job" for young people not only provides upkeep on the trails. It is also a wonderful "bush time" with elders who teach traditional knowledge of survival as passed down by their forefathers. For every fallen log we didn't have to climb over on a portage, we had them to thank. I was told that in the not-to-distant past, men would carry up to several hundred pounds of equipment and supplies on a portage trail. On the days that I dragged myself over some of these trails with a fraction of the weight that those people carried, I came to the conclusion that those Cree were tough!

We set up our third camp on an island below the "Quatre Chutes" (Four falls). We decided that this was going to be our favorite camp, so the next day became a self-declared rest day. We lounged around on the beach and the rocks and cooked the fish we caught for lunch. The peaceful sound of nature had driven away memories of the honking horns and ambulance sirens of Montreal. Our pace of life had slowed to follow the soothing rhythms of the river. After only a couple of days on the water, we were beginning to recuperate from the ravages of hectic city living. We had driven 1,200 km for this, and it was worth it. Pristine wilderness such as this is simply not to be found around Montreal. That night, we stretched out on the beach to watch the Northern Lights and then crawled into our sleeping bags and fell fast asleep.

We thought about Robert at our next portage camp, since we agreed it definitely qualified as a "happy place" for us. It was almost dark when we arrived there and we didn't have time to make a second trip back to the beginning of the portage for the second load of equipment. Unfortunately, that equipment included my sleeping bag and mat. However, a previous camper had left behind a bed of spruce boughs, which were still fresh enough to sleep on. The timing couldn't have been better. Ironically enough, we didn't find a spruce bough bed at any of the other camps we saw. We had exactly what we needed at the right time. So, happily, I put on all the remaining clothes I had, laid on top of the boughs and drifted off to sleep.

Next day, the early morning sun was piercing through the fog as it lifted itself from the river. We silently pushed off in our canoe. Everything was still except for the rhythmic sound of our paddles as they sliced through the water. These sounds were replaced by the increasing roar of approaching rapids. The river is so powerful and the large rapids so turbulent that you can often hear the falls several kilometers before reaching them. The canoe was moving more swiftly in the water now, as we neared the falls. We located the portage trail that Alec had drawn on our map, and pulled ashore. The view from above the falls was entirely different from the view below. From above, the falls appeared as a deceptively gentle line as the water spills over a wide ledge, or as a v-shaped tongue of water which arced into a "haystack", where the river narrowed. However, just slightly further downstream, the river erupted into a violent, white, frothy foam. As I peered through the rainbow-colored halos of mist rising above the turbulent water, I thought to myself that this would qualify as a definite "meat grinder", for any canoeist who attempted to run it. In fact, many of these rapids are simply not "runnable".

However, later on the next day, we did have our chance to run some rapids. There was a 2 km stretch of whitewater just upriver from Smokey Hill Rapids. Since we were alone, we did not take too many chances. Any mishaps, and it would take a while to get help. But this was a nice clean section of R2-level paddling close to shore, and was too good to resist. It also beat the prospect of another portage. So we jumped in our canoe and down we went. We would paddle about 100 meters and then stop and tuck ourselves in behind a rock in an eddy of water and scout out the route for the next section of rapids.

We took a late, long leisurely lunch at the end of the rapids until we noticed an incoming storm. We hadn't had any rain until now, so I guess we were due for a good soaking. We bolted across the river and pulled in at the portage trail above Smokey Hill Rapids. It was early in the evening but with the black clouds looming overhead it was getting noticeably darker. However, we decided to push on to the locally famous Smokey Hill fishing camp anyway, because we had been told that people would be there. It had been a long day and we were tired, wet, hungry and our eyes were straining to see the trail as the light was diminishing quickly. However, the thought of sitting in a warm teepee, enjoying a hot cup of tea, whitefish, bannock and some company propelled us forward. Suddenly, our eyes made out a clearing with a teepee in the distance. When we arrived, our hearts sank to find the camp empty. Some still-warm embers in a firepit told us that there had been visitors, but we had just missed them. We slumped down onto a picnic table in our soggy clothes, ate a bag of peanuts and some dehydrated food and went to bed.

The next morning when we awoke, we went down to look at the fishing weir. Neither of us had ever seen one before. Shortly thereafter, a Cree elder came in and started fishing. We couldn't help watching him while we ate our breakfast, remarking on



what an ingenious and efficient method of catching fish it was. In our several days on the river, we had caught a few fish with our fishing rod. In 20 minutes, this man left with a large bucketful of mouth-watering whitefish. After he left, a group of school kids arrived for a fieldtrip. We gratefully devoured every scrap of fish they gave us. We met Ingrid McNeil, one of the teachers, who kindly invited us to stay with her that night when we arrived back in Waskaganish.

The winds were high when we pulled out of Smokey Hill, but it was the last leg of the trip and we were not going to be pushed off of the river by the weather. We paddled late into the evening. The water was illuminated by the moonlight and finally we could see the welcoming lights of Waskaganish in the distance. We ended up getting in late, so we decided to stay at the Lodge and then at Ingrid's the second night. We were glad to see Gordon, a familiar face, when we went inside.

The next morning at breakfast, we bumped into William T. Hester, a councilor that had been with the elders at the bridge before driving into Waskaganish. He offered to take us around town and ended up spending the day with us. A big feast was being prepared for the Cree Trappers' Association meeting, so we all went down to the feast teepee. There we had our first lesson on how to prepare smoked whitefish. After eating a wonderful meal, we went to thank Alex, Elizabeth and the other elders who we met prior to canoeing the river, to thank them again for their invaluable advice and to show them that we had arrived safely. We then headed over to the school where Charles Cheezo gave us a crash course on Cree boy's culture. I had a hard time pulling my husband away, and he promised that some day he would make me a teepee in the woods somewhere on the outskirts of Montreal.

Our trip down the Rupert river and our visit to Waskaganish was an unforgettable experience. We were amazed by the incredible hospitality and kindness shown toward us by so many people. We always had what we needed at the right time, both on the river and off of it.

The area has an untouched natural beauty that urban dwellers, such as ourselves, are starved for. To dam this river would not only destroy a delicate balanced ecosystem, but would also badly impact a village whose very character and existence depends on it. The weir, the portage trails and the rapids, which have been central to the way of life of the Cree would become only a distant memory. Furthermore, this river is a goldmine for tourism, and individuals who love the outdoors would be willing to travel long distances and spend good money to get a taste of such pristine wilderness and friendly Cree people and their culture. This river is well worth the trip. It is truly a "jewel of the north", and deserves to be protected for the benefit of those future generations yet to be born.

Correction

The Nation would like to apologize to Nemaska Deputy Matthew Swallow as in the last issue we erroneously called Josie Jimikin the Deputy Chief for Nemaska. Josie Jimikin is in fact a councilor for the Nemaska Band.

Originally Josie Jimikin had been correctly called a councilor, however, one of the Nation staff said he was the Deputy Chief so it was changed.

Once again we apologize for this mistake. We also publically state that in no way were we trying to send a subliminal message or give his statement more impact by titling him a deputy chief as it has been suggested. We feel that Josie Jimikin's statement speaks for itself as do any other letters addressed to the Nation.

James Bay Cree Telephone Book

Available in December 2001, the James Bay Cree Telephone Book brings us closer together making it easier to contact one another: family to family, friend to friend, department to department and business to new and old customers. **Make sure you're accessible, drop us a line if you have a new phone number or if you're a new Cree business.**

2002
The listing is free!

Name/Biz _____

Rez _____

tel: 514-272-3077

fax: 514-278-9914

email: beesum@beesum-
communications.com

(attention: phonebook)

mail:

The James Bay Cree Phonebook
5505 St-Laurent Blvd.
Suite 3018
Montreal, Quebec H2T 1S6

Happy Holidays



Mandow Inn • Eastmain, Quebec
(819) 977-2050

Best Wishes
for all in
Eeyou Istchee

MOTEL

Harricana
Inc.

1000, 3e Rue,
Chibougamau,
G8P 1R7

Tél.: (418) 748-7771
Fax: (418) 748-2887

Chambres

- 3 Suites avec bain masseur et salon, bar lit 60x80
- 7 Luxueuses avec bain masseur et salon, bar lit 60x80
- 31 Spacieuses avec lit 60x80
- 58 Conventionnelles 1 lit ou 2 lits

Chaque chambre comprend:

- TV couleur 26" • Radio réveil • Vidéo cassette • Séchoir à cheveux • Bureau de travail

Services

- Service de buanderie
- Service de location de cassette
- Service de télécopieur
- Service de téléphone

Bar Des Rapides

Salle à manger Les Captures

Bain tourbillon masseur

Piscine

Salle de conférence et réception

SERVICES CHAMBRES

Propriétaire: Roger Pearson

CLASSIFIEDS

100 - BIRTHS

I want to take this time to congratulate my brother Germain and his girlfriend Angela on the birth of their Joy Treasure Capissisit born on November 26th, 2001 (Val D'Or) weighing 8 pounds and 7 ounces. Take good care of my new beautiful niece now. Give her kisses for me. Love always, Treasure's aunt in Waswanipi.

Congrats to Errol & Rita Mianscum on the birth of their new baby, from proud grandparents Henry & Bella.

101 - BIRTHDAYS

I would like to say Happy Belated Birthday to my little brother Gilles Matoush on November 29, 2001. I hope you had a wonderful day...I love you from LeeAnn

I would like to say Happy Belated Birthday to Phillip Rupert in Chis on November 17, 2001. From someone in Mist.

I would like to say Happy Birthday to two of my friends in Waskaganish! Their names are Tyrone and Alex Moses. Their birthday is on Jan 3. Happy Birthday Boys! Hope to see you guys soon and take care. From your friend in Mississini (guess who)

Tyler Lester Lewis Gunner, our baby boy celebrated his 1st birthday on December 3rd, 2001. Wow! You are growing up so fast and turning into a fine handsome little man. We love you so much even tho' right now you're the little Boss of the house. Happy 1st birthday & many more years to come, with lots

of love & prayers from Mommy (Edith) & Daddy (Gordon). XOXO-XOXO

Happy belated Birthday to my son Eric Wapachee and my nice niece Elizabeth. Love always, Will.

We want to send a very Happy 5th belated Birthday wish to our "little hockey player" Nimistchou Bearskin. With all our love, Mom, Dad, Eliza-faith & Chiiwaadin Bearskin. Lots of hugs n' kisses from all of us here in Chisasibi.

My little brother Tyler Gunner, I love you with all my heart even tho' I tease you sometimes and always remember I am your big brother & I'll always be here for you. Happy 1st Birthday & many more years to come from your big brother Evander Gunner. XOXOXOXO

On December 14th, 2001, Happy Birthday and many more years to come to a very special person in our lives, Isaac Matches in

Chisasibi who is the world's greatest dad and grandfather, we all love you so much, we think about you everyday and we miss you and mom take care of each other with love always: Edith, Gordon & your 2 grandsons Evander & Tyler Gunner in Mississini. XOXOXOXO

Birthday wish goes to a little young fellow that will be turning 2 on December 19th, 2001. You know little fellow that you are very precious to me, I love you dearly, may not often show it but you know that I do. I thank God for your presence on this earth and I'm sure that He didn't want you yet, you have too many things to accomplish, you have a job of being a son to mommy and daddy, a big brother to your sister, a grandson to gou gou and a nephew to me. So on December 19th I want you to have all the fun that you want. See you then. Love Auntie Li ...



Gilles Côté
Sales Representative



Tél: (418) 548-0821 I (800) 830-0821
Télé: (418) 548-0921
2595, Godbout, Jonquière (Québec) G7S 5B1

Musigo

in Val d'Or Shopping Centre

2\$

off for purchase over 20\$
upon presentation of this coupon until January 30, 2001

"We accept C.O.D."

2\$



Mariette Parker
Agent immobilier affilié
Bur.: (819) 825-5066

925, 3e avenue
Val d'Or (Québec)
J9P 1T4

mparker@royallepage.ca
Rés.: (819) 825-2159
Fax: (819) 825-5560
Télé-avis: (819) 280-4350

ROYAL LEPAGE
VAL D'OR 2000

Courtier immobilier agréé
Franchisé indépendant et Autonome de Royal LePage



Fondation du Vieux pour tous

RONA

"Renovateur"

C. Caron
Matagami

819-739-2578

James Bay Delivery

Special for
Christmas

Choice! Quality &
Friendly Service!



Hôtel/Motel
Continental
Classification
★★★

- Restaurant service, room service, bar, video poker
- 55 smoking rooms • 20 non-smoking rooms
- 10 Bachelors with kitchenette
- 2 meeting rooms for 20 and 60 persons
- Quality accommodation at economic price

Downtown in Val d'Or
800-567-6477



Le Coin à Tapis

Val-d'Or inc.

Carpet • Blinds • Paint
Ceramic • Cushion Floor • Hardwood
Laminated Flooring • Fabric • Etc.
Installation service
C.O.D.'s accepted

Marcel Dubé
Owner

1488, rue de la Québécoise
Val-d'Or (Québec) J9P 5H4

Tel: (819) 825-6923
Fax: (819) 825-0076

CLASSIFIEDS

To a very special daughter Maxine "Toune" Mark-Stewart. We (mom & dad) would like to wish you a very Happy Happy 18th Birthday. We also want to let you know that we are proud of you. We love you, miss you and so sorry for not being there to share this special birthday. Love always, Mom & Dad. XOXOXO

Happy Birthday Toune. We love you. We miss you. From Boboys. XOXOXO

Sending out Birthday Wishes from Eastmain to Ste-Anne de Bellevue on December 11th, 2001. To Miss Maxine Mark-Stewart "Toune". Will be thinking of you. Enjoy your 18th Birthday. Love Mom, Dad & Boboys. XOXOXOXO

We would like to wish a Happy

belated Birthday to our son Thomas Quiscappio on November 28th, 2001. We're sorry we sent this greeting late, but we have to tell you we love you very much and we'll always be there for you. May each day be as loving as you are. Happy 2nd birthday from your mom & dad (Jeannie & Michael) and your sisters & brother (Cecilia, Sheila, John, Mary).

We want to wish our mother, grandma, mother-in-law, and a friend a Christmas greeting and Happy Birthday on December 21st, there will always and forever be a place in our hearts for you, we love you very much. Joyful & beautiful as you are. From your daughters, sons and grandchildren, and your great grandchildren, and your in-laws.

102 - WEDDINGS

Congratulations to my aunt & her husband to be, Bridget Salt & Sam Blacksmith who are getting married in Val D'Or on December 14th, 2001. I wish you both the best years together and take care of each other through good and bad times and also to your children, with love & prayers, Edith Gunner & family in Mistissini.

103 - ANNIVERSARIES

I would like to wish a very special person in my life a Happy belated Birthday, and a Happy Anniversary, my husband for 5 years, my friend, confidant and my other half (better half) Keith Bearskin. November 5th is a special day for us, because it was the day that we both were born into this world, and sometimes later in our lives found each other. In a world that is filled with uncertainty, and tribulations, we managed to overcome all. We have pledged our love, and lives to each other for better or for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, til death do us apart, Amen. I just wanted to let you know that I Love you, and that I am grateful that God put us in each other's paths to live life together. I pray to him for strenght, guidance, and love, and that our love lasts as long as this world will have us, and that we overcome obstacles that this world gives us. With all my love, heart & soul, your wife Stella Masty-Bearskin.

300 - PERSONALS

This message goes out to Caleb who I adore so much. Eventhou we didn't talk for awhile I haven't forgotten about you. The way I felt about you is still there deep inside my heart. From time to time I've thought about you, wondered what you were up to. I remember the times that we spent together, how much we laughed and how you used to drive me nuts. I miss you so much but I had to let you go. When we parted I told you that I would love you forever and I meant it. People tried to brake us up and they did. We thought it was for the best. From there on I knew I had to move on with my life and it hurted so much knowing that I've lost you. Now, when I see you I start to melt and look away but all I want to do is stare at you. My Honey! My gor-

gious Honey! I don't know what we had that doesn't want to go away? I tried to let it go but it's not working. You always say that it's my fault, no it's not. I know you were just joking or did you??? Remember that song you sang and said "each time you hear it, think of me" and I still do. Sometimes I have a tear coming down my face when I listen to it. I don't want to say the name of the song, I'm sure you remember it because you were so good at it. I wish I could just come over whenever I want to but... Well anyways I just wanted you to know that I menat it. I am probably confusing you with all this, hope not. I told you that I would do this (for your birthday). It's kind of late but better now than never, right? I almost forgot to Thank you for thinking about me on my birthday. I was surprised when you mentioned it. My dearest Caleb, I adore you so much and I will never stop loving you. I wish you happiness always. Love always... by you know who.

We would like to say a BIG HELLO!!! to our friends from Wemindji, their names are Corrine Shash, Melanie Matches and Melissa Sealhunter and especially my friend Cheyenne Georgekish. Hello girls!!!, When will we ever see you girls again??? We miss you so much. Don't party without us....It ain't that much fun without you girls....We hope you girls come for the Tournament here in Chisasibi, so we can have fun talking!!!!(about boys).... We really wanna see you girls so much...We wanna party with u girls.....j/k....LMSAO. See you girls soon....We hope. Love and Friendship: B.R and S.R (Chisasibi)

This small message is for my mom, Lily Napash. Mom, I want to take this time to Thank you for your continued support, great advice, caring and understanding of what I am going through in my Life. It's just really great to know that you are always there to listen whenever I need someone to talk to. I treasure you because you are my hero, my friend and best of all, you are my Mother. Love, Paula (Mtl)

To everybody at the Native Resource Center at JAC "Merry X-Mas & A Happy New Year!!!" Have fun and Relax during the Holidays, you know how it gets when the semester starts again.... Hope you all have a great Holiday and see you in January! Paula

Attention

The Source for Sports
insert will deliver your
orders C.O.D.

this season,
give the gift
of Canada.

If there's one gift guaranteed to create interest this season, it's New Canada Savings Bonds. By starting a nest egg for a loved one's future, you're giving them something worth holding on to.

Pick up a gift card wherever you bank or invest. It's a great way to let someone know they'll be receiving New Canada Savings Bonds.

to buy direct visit www.csb.gc.ca or call 1.888.773.9999

NEW CANADA SAVINGS BONDS
YOU'RE ON SOLID GROUND

The Minister of Finance may end the sale of bonds at any time.

HERE IS A BREAKDOWN AND EXPLANATION OF THE THREE WAYS OF DEFINING THE LAND ACCORDING TO THE AGREEMENT.

CREE PROTECTED AREAS 1%

Cree protected areas are sites which are considered important to the tallyman of the trapline. This can be a burial site, a cultural site or a permanent campsite. A permanent camp is an area where the Cree trapper will reside for most of the year (an average of 8 months) during the hunting, fishing and trapping season. 1% is about equivalent to a 1,5km buffer zone around a camp.

The way they will manage these areas has not yet been determined.



ECOZONES 22%

A tallyman would be able to identify a portion of his land into different ecozones. An ecozone is an area of the trapline which is very sensitive to human intervention. These ecological zones will vary in size depending on what the tallyman will indicate as its main purpose. The ecozones identified by the tallyman can be a moose yard, a beaver habitat, bear dens or land used for hunting, fishing and trapping which is used on a continuous basis.

Mosaic cutting will take place in this area. 2% to 4% will be cut every year in the ecozones.



THE REST OF THE LAND 67%

This is the land not already identified as Cree Protected Areas or Ecozones. At any given time a maximum of 40% of the land will be 20 years old or less. This is either because of cutting or a recent fire.

Mosaic cutting will take place in 75% of this area. The other 25% will be big clear cuts with buffer strips identified by Quebec. (top of the map).

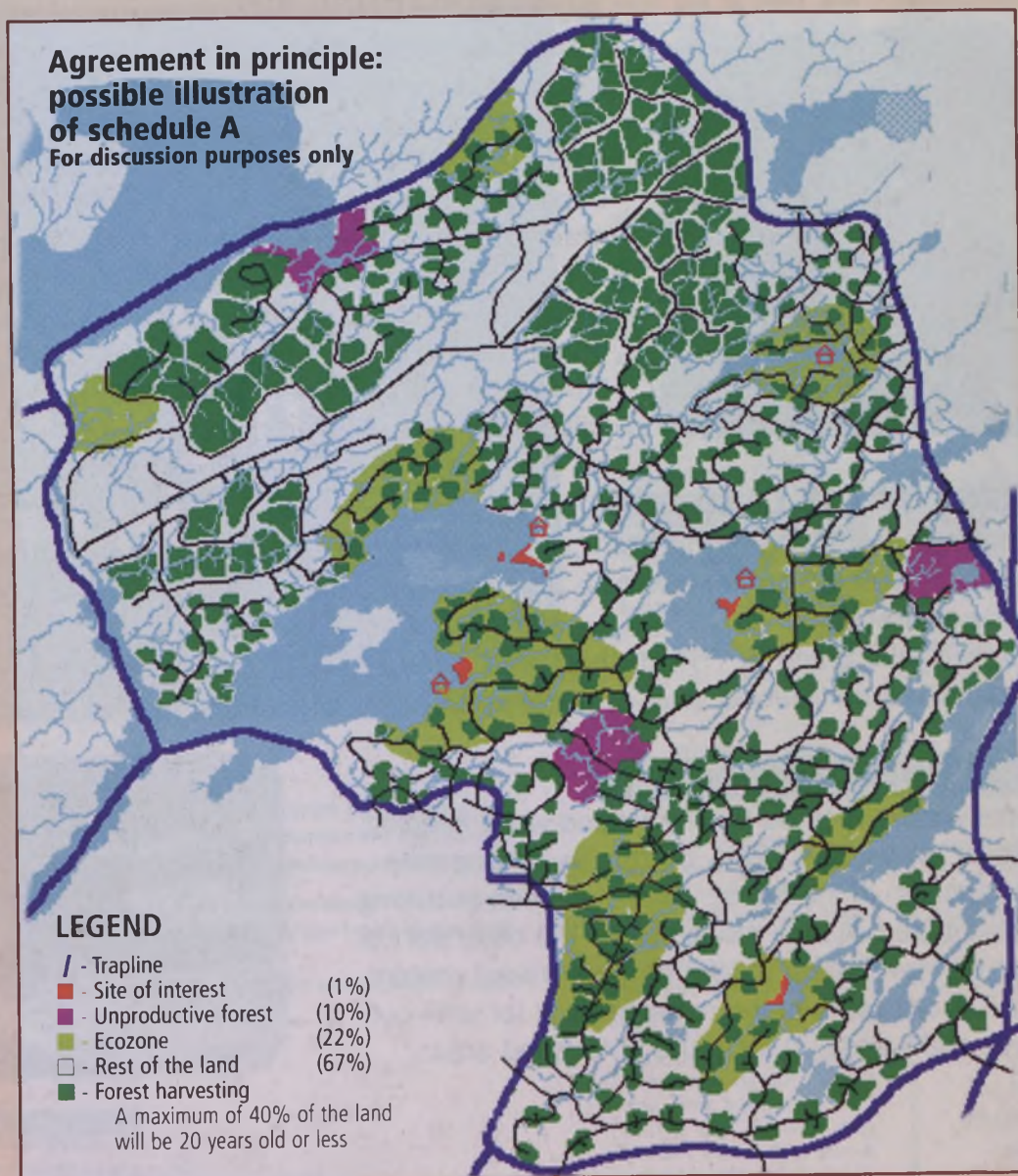
MOSAIC CUTTING

The basis of this cutting method is to cut wood while keeping some forest cover for wildlife. They do this by cutting only small parts (or patches) in the forest. These patches or cutting blocks will be distributed all over the territory. The other part or untouched area will have forest stands of more than 7 meters. They will wait 15 to 20 years before coming back (or until cut area is 4 metres high) and cutting in the untouched area.



Waswanipi

The Agreement in Principle signed between the Cree and Quebec will affect us all for the next fifty years. We all need to understand this agreement in order to make an informed decision. We want to provide you with a visual interpretation of the forestry section of the agreement for discussion purposes. The map shows how a trapline may look like once the Agreement is in affect after a 20 year period.

[illegible]

WASWANIP
CITY MODEL FOREST

explanation continued on reverse of this page

